

Borough of  Cheltenham

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

# Health of Cheltenham

Vital Statistics, Sanitary Work, &c.

FOR THE YEAR

1938

BY

DONALD E. MORLEY, M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with the Report of

F. R. JEFFORD, M.R.San.I.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

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“Salus Populi Suprema Lex”

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*To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of  
the Borough of Cheltenham.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough during 1938.

The drawing up of an Annual Report is a statutory duty placed on the Medical Officer and it is prepared on the lines indicated by the Ministry of Health.

**General Statistics.**

The year under review provided a general death rate which was well below the average and an infant mortality of 34·2, which was the lowest that has ever been recorded in Cheltenham. This was in spite of a very extensive outbreak of Diphtheria upon which a special note will be found in the body of the Report (Page 6).

**Supply of Milk.**

An item of importance is the expenditure on milk for mothers and young children (see Page 36). The distribution during 1938 corresponded to an average of 245 pints of milk for every child born alive during the year. In practice, of course, the milk supply is spread out among mothers, and children up to five years of age, which very much alters the significance of the figure, but it is an indication of the amount of work involved in this distribution.

Such comparative figures as are available would suggest that this Borough is generous in its supply, but there is no doubt as to the value of the service from a health point of view. Members of the Council will know that in the view of the Ministry of Health the value of milk as a food is such that it is undesirable to fix any arbitrary restriction or limitations on the supply to mothers and young children in need of extra nourishment for the maintenance of health.

**Midwives' Act, 1936.**

The arrangements made with the Victoria Home for the working of the Midwives' Act have proved satisfactory. Five midwives, whose salaries are paid by the Corporation, are employed, and the work progressed smoothly during 1938, which was the first complete year of the new service.

**Maternity Accommodation.**

A special note on this matter, which occupied much of the time of the Committee during the year, will be found on page 33.

**Maternal Mortality.**

The figures for the last twenty years have been analysed and they show that the experience of Cheltenham has been 15% better in this respect than the average experience of the country as a whole (see Page 28).

During the year under consideration, much time was involved in making surveys and attendance at meetings in connection with Air Raid Precautions, particularly during the autumn. In spite of this, the normal work of the Department was not allowed to suffer.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to the members of the Council for their consideration in the conduct of the work and to the staff for the zeal and loyalty with which they have carried out their duties.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

DONALD E. MORLEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1939.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

*December, 1938.*

The following particulars are given in accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health.

Name	Qualifications, etc.	Nature of Appointment.
Dr. D. E. Morley	W * a b	M. O. H.
Dr. I. J. McDonough	W * b c	Deputy M. O. H.
Mr. F. R. Jefford	W * d e	Chief Sanitary Inspector.
Miss H. M. Jordan	W * i	Health Visitor.
Miss D. J. Goddard	W * f g h i j	„ „
Miss C. M. Powell	W * f g i k	„ „
Mr. C. W. Clifford	W * d	District Sanitary Inspector.
Mr. F. Keene	W * d e.	„ „ „
Mr. J. F. Ursell	W * d e	„ „ „
Mr. E. Jackson	W * d e	„ „ „
Mr. W. Townsend	W	Disinfecting Inspector.
Miss B. A. Richards	W	Chief Clerk.
Miss L. Ellis	W	Clerk, M. & C. W. & Public Health.
Miss E. A. Stroud	P	Clerk, Public Health and School Medical.
Mr. H. E. Clapp	W	Pupil Clerk.
Mr. W. L. Booy	W	Pupil.

W Whole Time.

P Part Time.

\* Contribution to Salary (50% Basis) made by Exchequer Grants.

a M.D., B.S. Lond., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

b D.P.H.

c L.R.C.P. &amp; S.

d Certified as Sanitary Inspector.

e Certified as Meat Inspector.

f Fully Trained Nurse.

g Registered Midwife.

h Ex. Queen's Nurse.

i Health Visitor's Certificate London.

j „ „ „ Scotland.

k Mothercraft Training Society Certificate.



## SUMMARY OF GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, 1938.

Area of borough (in acres)—5,146\*

Population { Census 1931, Corrected Figure—49,418

{	Registrar General's Estimates of Resident Population	(Mid Year) 1938—51,900.
		(Mid Year) 1937—51,420.
		(Mid Year) 1936—51,390.
		(Mid Year) 1935—51,140.*
		(Mid Year) 1934—50,350.

Number of inhabited houses (structurally separate)

(Census 1921)—10,928. (Census 1931)—12,272.

Number of inhabited houses (end 1938) according to Rate Books—15,448.

Number of families or separate occupiers (Census 1921)—11,862.

(Census 1931)—13,211.

Rateable value £447,919. Sum represented by a penny rate £1,765.

\*Change of Boundary 1935.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1938.

	M.	F.	Totals	Rate	
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	342	321	663	Birth Rate per 1000 population.	
Illegitimate	19	20	39		
Totals	361	341	702	13.5	
STILL BIRTHS—Legitimate	12	11	23	Still Birth Rate per 1000 (Live and Still) Births.	
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
Totals	12	11	23	31.7	
DEATHS ... ..	310	400	710	Death Rate per 1000 population. 13.68	
Cheltenham deaths from Puerperal Causes. Deaths	Per 1000 Total Live and Still Births.		Per 1000 Live Births		
	Cheltenham	England and Wales	Cheltenham	England and Wales	
Puerperal Sepsis ...   1	1.38	0.86	1.42	0.89	
Other Puerperal Causes   1	1.38	2.11	1.42	2.19	
Totals 2	2.76	2.97	2.85	3.08	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age.			Rate per 1000 Live Births.		
	M	F	Totals	Cheltenham	England and Wales
Legitimate	12	12	24		
Illegitimate	—	—	—		
Totals	12	12	24	34.2	53
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—111.					
Deaths from Measles (all ages)—0.					
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—2.					
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)—3.					
Corrected General Death Rate.					
The application of the Registrar General's Factor (.74 for Cheltenham) to correct for age and sex distribution gives a corrected death rate of 10.12					



# Comparative Birth-rates, Death-rates, and Analysis of Mortality and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

*The rates for England and Wales and Cheltenham have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1938, but those for London and the groups of towns, have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1937.*

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	CHELTEHAM
Rates per 1,000 Population					
<b>Births :—</b>					
Live ... ..	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4	13.5
Still ... ..	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48	0.44
<b>Deaths :—</b>					
All Causes ... ..	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4	13.68
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ....	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Smallpox... ..	0.00		0.00	—	0.00
Measles ... ..	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.00
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Whooping Cough ... ..	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04
Diphtheria ... ..	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05	0.12
Influenza... ..	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06	0.12
<b>Notifications :—</b>					
Smallpox... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05	1.85
Diphtheria ... ..	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90	3.45
Enteric Fever ... ..	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.04
Erysipelas ... ..	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46	0.29
Pneumonia ... ..	1.10	1.28	0.98	0.98	0.86
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
Deaths under 1 year of age ... ..	53	57	51	57	34.2
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ... ..	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1	4.3

Causes of Death in Borough of Cheltenham in 1938 as given by the Registrar General. (Total Deaths 710).

[illegible]

## NOTES ON SOCIAL CONDITIONS & VITAL STATISTICS.

### Social Conditions.

Cheltenham is essentially a residential town situated in an ideal environment which has determined its character as a health resort and educational centre. The age of the population is 25% above the average for the whole country. This is accounted for by the natural attractions of the town to business and professional men seeking retirement, and the clear atmosphere and healthy surroundings which are conducive to longevity.

Many visitors are also attracted by the medicinal waters, and some of these remain as permanent residents.

The few industries of importance include a drug manufactory, and hardwood factories providing office equipment, shop fittings, etc., and a more recently established aircraft factory. These industries are in keeping with the character of the Borough and do not give rise to conditions in any way prejudicial to the health of the area. Important works in the vicinity are in the process of development. These provide openings for the employment of Cheltenham residents, and in addition are tending to increase the demand for housing accommodation in the Borough.

### Unemployment.

The unemployment figures for 1938 are set out below. The figures for men for the Summer months are always lower on account of increased openings for casual labour at that time of year.

The insured population included in the figures is that for the area covered by the Borough, the Urban District of Charlton Kings, and that portion of the Cheltenham Rural District lying within about four miles of the centre of the town. It comprises an insured population of about 12,500 men and 3,600 women.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

1938		Men	% of Insured population	Women	% of Insured population
4th April	...	864	7·3	239	7·1
13th July	...	824	6·9	239	7·1
12th Sept.	...	742	5·1	272	7·3
12th Dec.	...	1013	8·0	228	6·3

### Registrar General's Estimate of Population for 1938.

This estimate is always made for the middle of the year in order to give an average figure for the purpose of the calculations of Death and Birth rates, etc. The figure for 1938 is given as 51,900, which is an increase of 580 over the figure for 1937, this compares with a difference of only 30 between the 1936 and 1937 figures.

### Death Rate.

The death rate figure of 13·68, which is based on 710 deaths compared with 832 for 1937, shows that 1938 was a healthy year in Cheltenham. The corrected figure, after allowing for the higher average age of Cheltenham residents, is 10·1, compared with 11·6 for England and Wales.

### Infant Mortality Rate.

There were 24 deaths of infants under one year of age. This gives an infant mortality rate of 34·2, compared with 57 for England and Wales, which is the lowest figure ever recorded for Cheltenham.

In 1935 there were only 22 deaths, but the number of births was also low, 636, so that the mortality rate that year was slightly higher at 34·6.

This state of affairs reflects credit on the work of the Health Visitors and Infant Welfare Association.

### Birth Rate.

Live births during 1938 numbered 702. It is necessary to go back to 1925 to find a figure of over 700. The areas added to the Borough in 1935 have no doubt contributed, but the number of births per 1,000 of the population, at 13·52, is also the highest figure since 1925.

In 1934, a rate of 11·26 was returned, which is the lowest on record. On each occasion since, with only a slight drop in 1937, there has been an increase.

The rates for England and Wales have shown improvement on each occasion for four years with a figure of 15·1 for 1938, which compares with 14·4 for 1933, the lowest ever recorded.

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## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

These were described in some detail in the Annual Report for 1936, and it is unnecessary to repeat the information as there is no change of importance to record.

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## THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The reports on Drainage, Sewerage, Meat Inspection, etc., will be found in the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.



## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

### Sandford Swimming Pool.

Owing to the generally inclement weather the purifying processes were seldom severely taxed during 1938. Analyses showed that the purity of the water was maintained at a high level in spite of the increased work involved in treating the additional volume of water circulating through the children's pool which was opened during the year.

The system of purification (Messrs. Bells) allows of a turnover period of about six hours. The water is kept in continuous circulation, and is subjected to sand filtration after the addition of alum and is then purified by chlorination and aeration. The reaction is kept at a suitable level by the addition of an alkali.

### Alstone Baths.

A similar process of purification (Messrs. Pattersons) was installed at these baths two years ago. The shortest period of turnover is about four hours. There is a separate plant of the same type for the small bath reserved for school children.

### Tewkesbury Road Swimming Pool.

The water in this pool is subject to a process of aeration and chlorination after filtration similar to the method in operation at the Sandford Pool.

### Montpellier Baths.

The water in this bath is not treated on modern lines. Cleanliness is maintained by emptying and refilling.

---

## WATER SUPPLY.

The sources of the water supplied in the Borough and the surrounding areas for which the Cheltenham undertaking is responsible, were enumerated in the last Annual Report, and there was no change during 1938. Some changes are contemplated when the Joint Water Board is able to commence operating the new reservoirs on Churchdown Hill. These are now nearing completion, but the new pumping machinery at Tewkesbury has not yet been erected, and some twelve to eighteen months must still elapse before the Board will be ready to provide the necessary increase in the supply.

The process of chlorination has proceeded smoothly, apart from occasional complaints of taste. The results of analysis have shown the value of this treatment in providing water which is above suspicion.

During 1938, the position of the Dowdeswell supply, in relation to chlorination, was reconsidered, and in spite of the good record for purity maintained by the process of double filtration and alum precipitation, the Water Committee agreed to install a chlorination plant as an additional safeguard.

Owing to certain difficulties associated with variations in supply and alterations in the direction of the flow during the night, the advice of Dr. Suckling, an eminent authority on water purification, was obtained, as to the most suitable method of introducing the dose of chlorine. It was finally decided to gather the effluents from all the slow sand filters into one channel and to add chlorine before discharge into the clean water tank. The necessary work of installation is now in progress.

Rearrangement of mains and reservoirs in preparation for the new supply, involved considerable work in No. 1 covered reservoir at Hewletts. Every precaution was taken to prevent any possibility of contamination during the alterations. Strict instructions were issued and all the foot gear used by the men was disinfected before entry into the reservoir. In addition, the Medical Officer of Health inspected the members of the gang before commencement of the work.

A special piece of apparatus has been acquired to enable new sections of main to be cleansed by flushing with chlorinated water before being put into service.

During 1938, 249 analyses were presented for consideration by the Water and Public Health Committees. The results indicate that an efficient guard is being maintained on the purity of the supply and that assurance can be given as to its safety.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

A Public Inquiry was held at the Municipal Offices on the 20th July by a representative of the Minister of Health into a central re-drainage scheme of considerable magnitude.

The Scheme provides for the renewal of the Chelt Sewer between Arle Tank and Old Bath Road—an approximate distance of two miles. The existing sewer, which was constructed about 80 years ago, has been reported by the Borough Surveyor to be both weak and of insufficient capacity. The Council proposes to retain the Storm Water Overflow at two points where they now exist, namely, College Road and Arle Tank, both of which discharge to the River Chelt. Other proposals include the renewal of a section of Wyman's Brook Sewer to the North of the Borough, and of the sewer which serves the Rowanfield Road Area. Both these sewers discharge into the Chelt Sewer above referred to.

The sewage conveyed through the new sewer will continue to be delivered to the Hayden Disposal Works, via the existing Outfall Sewer. No further extensions to these works are contemplated as extensions were carried out there only a year or so ago.



## HOUSING.

During 1938, 42 Demolition Orders were made under Section 11 of the Housing Acts, 1936, and in addition an official representation was made defining a small clearance area. The latter only included seven houses which had already been purchased by the Corporation, and as action was only taken to facilitate the rehousing of the occupants, the clearance order was made by the Minister with the minimum formality.

By the end of the year all the Building Schemes on the Whaddon Estate to provide for rehousing from clearance areas declared under the 1930 and 1936 Housing Acts, and for rehousing under the overcrowding programme, were for all practical purposes complete.

An additional 32 houses to be erected under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1938, are now nearing completion.

In spite of this, the demand for new houses continues unabated. This is accounted for by the necessity for providing for families displaced by action taken under Sections 11 and 12 of the 1936 Act and to relieve further cases of overcrowding which come to light. In addition, a large number of applicants for houses of moderate rents remain unsatisfied.

### Overcrowding.

The following special particulars relating to overcrowding are given in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers' Regulations, 1935.

(a)	1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	65
	2. Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	65
	3. Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..	376
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	50
(c)	1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	191
	2. Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..	1314

### Details as to cases relieved.

Of the 191 overcrowded families relieved during the year, (i), 134 were provided with Council Houses, (ii), 30 removed, finding their own accommodation, and (iii), in the case of 27, the overcrowded conditions were relieved by the departure of members of the families for a variety of reasons such as marriage, joining the Services, departure for work in other towns and by death.

The number of persons affected under each heading respectively were (i) 979, (ii) 159, (iii) 176.

## New Cases.

The 50 new cases of overcrowding reported during the year affected 324 persons.

The overcrowding conditions in these cases are mainly brought about by additions to families and the altering age classification of children in the families reported as borderline cases at the time of the overcrowding census.

The register is as far as possible kept up-to-date in the matter of new houses by the remaining clerk whose time is also occupied in investigating reports, interviewing owners of property with regard to permitted numbers and as far as time permits, in house to house visitation, particularly of borderline cases.

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## DISINFESTATION.

### 1. (a) Number of Council Houses :

(i) Found to be infested ... 27 (ii) Disinfected ... 27

### (b) Other Houses :

(i) Found to be infested ... 0 (ii) Disinfected ... 0  
(Prior to Demolition).

### 2. Methods Employed for freeing Infested Houses.

Fumigation with Hydro Cyanic Acid Gas is the form of treatment used. It has been decided to keep the houses empty for 48 hours to ensure complete dispersal of the gas before re-occupation.

Two Council Houses have been set aside as hostels for families temporarily displaced.

### 3. Methods Employed for insuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council Houses.

In all cases where infestation with bugs is proved or suspected in the furniture of families removed from clearance areas it is subjected to cyanide fumigation by a specialist firm in the process of removal.

The furniture is removed from two or three houses in a special van to a site adapted for the purpose of cyanide fumigation. The bedding, however, is not subjected to fumigation, but is disinfected in the Corporation high pressure steam disinfector as it is felt that this renders the method entirely free from danger.

4. The work of disinfestation is carried out by a contracting firm, namely, "Associated Fumigators Ltd."

5. Corporation Houses are in the charge of a Woman Housing Manager. The properties are inspected regularly, and advice on prevention of infestation is given when necessary. Each occupier is provided with a "Tenants' Handbook," which contains two pages of information and advice on Insect Pests and Vermin, one page of which is devoted to the Bed Bug.

### Summary of Work done.

During 1938, 354 removals were undertaken free of charge in connection with condemned and overcrowded houses, and in 352 of these cases the goods were subjected to fumigation and steam disinfection. The total number of articles fumigated was 9812.

\* The cost was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Expenses of Removal ... ..	270	1	4
Cost of Fumigation :—			
(a) Houses ... ..	78	6	0
(b) Furniture and Belongings ... ..	512	2	0
	£860	9	4*

\*(Cost of steam disinfection and ordinary time of Corporation Officials not included).

### MILK (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences were issued by Cheltenham Borough Council during 1938 :—

	<i>Type of Licence Issued.</i>		
	<i>Producers</i>	<i>Dealers</i>	<i>Supplementary</i>
A. Tuberculin Tested Milk ... —	—	3	—
B. Accredited ... ..	—	1	1
C. Pasteurised ... ..	1	1	1

Licences for production of Tuberculin Tested and Certified Milk are issued by the County Authority.

### Pasteurised Milk.

In only one case is this milk at present produced in the Borough.

The apparatus is of the modern “positive holding” type with automatic record of temperatures.

The “Dealers” and “Supplementary” licences are held by purveyors of the milk which is produced in other districts. One of these covers a small supply to an institution.

Samples of the main supplies are taken at regular intervals for Bacteriological analysis and Methylene Blue reduction and Phosphatase tests. The latter test gives a very valuable indication as to the correctness of temperature reached during pasteurisation and the absence of short circuiting of unpasteurised milk.

Five samples taken from the pasteurising plant were all satisfactory, B. Coli was not found in any fraction up to 1 c.c. on any occasion, and the highest organism count per c.c. was 1,930. In one case only the Methylene Blue Reduction test showed complete reduction at 56°C. in rather under 7½ hours.

Six dealers' samples were taken. Coliform organisms were present in 1 c.c. on two occasions and in 1/10th c.c. on one occasion, but the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests were satisfactory in all cases.

## SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS' ACTS.

*List of Articles submitted to the Public Analyst during the year 1938, and  
the result of such analyses.*

I am indebted to the Superintendent of Police (Arthur Wm. Hopkins) for the information concerning the operation of the Acts during 1938.

One hundred and twenty-two samples of the materials named below were collected for analysis.

Food or Drug	Number of Samples	Food or Drug	Number of Samples
Milk... ..	70	Brought forward ... ..	98
Cream ... ..	4	Currants ... ..	3
Butter ... ..	3	Vinegar ... ..	1
Empire Butter ... ..	1	Coffee and Chicory ... ..	2
Margarine ... ..	4	Tea ... ..	2
Ice Cream ... ..	4	Eucalyptus Oil ... ..	1
Lard ... ..	1	Iodine ... ..	1
Jam ... ..	1	Mineral Water ... ..	3
Sweets ... ..	1	Ammoniated	
Sausage ... ..	1	Tinct. of Quinine ... ..	1
Beef Sausages ... ..	2	Olive Oil ... ..	1
Pickles ... ..	1	Boric Acid ... ..	3
Ground Rice ... ..	1	Beeswax ... ..	2
Flour ... ..	1	Cider ... ..	2
Dried Fruit... ..	3	Beer... ..	2
Carried forward ... ..	98	Total ... ..	122

There was no prosecution during 1938. One sample of milk was deficient in fat, but the circumstances rendered prosecution inadvisable. One sample of sweets and one of currants contained sulphur dioxide, but not in sufficient quantity to warrant proceedings.

### Artificial Cream Act, 1929.

The County Council as the Food and Drugs' Act Authority is responsible for the registration of premises under this Act.

A certificate of registration is held by one Cheltenham Firm.

# THE PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES, 1938.

The following statement shows the numbers of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the numbers admitted to hospital, where the figures are available, and the deaths from each disease.

Disease.					Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	96	78	0
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	179	178	6
Typhoid Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	...	...	...	...	14	5	1
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	45	—	27
Polioencephalitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	15	—	—
Enecephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	—	2
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	—	0

## Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1938.

Cases			Vision un- impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	In Hospital				
1	—	1	1	—	—	—



## NOTES ON THE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING 1938.

### Influenza.

The year was particularly free from influenza, and only six deaths from this cause were recorded.

This figure is the lowest for more than ten years and compares with such figures as 64 in 1933, 61 in 1929 and 159 in 1918.

### Diphtheria.

It will be seen from the table that there was a serious outbreak of diphtheria during 1938, with 179 cases notified. The position presents a remarkable contrast with the previous year when only 18 cases were notified. That figure was the lowest since and including 1890, the first complete year in which Notification under the Infectious Diseases Act was in operation. Last year, in contrast, provided the highest figure ever recorded during the same period.

The number of deaths was six, a figure which has however been exceeded on 13, and equalled on 3 previous occasions.

The case mortality was 3.4% of notified cases, which under the circumstances must be considered quite reasonable and in fact reflects much credit on the medical practitioners in the town for prompt diagnosis and early admission of cases to hospital for treatment.

Three cases which occurred at the end of 1937, proved to be the forerunners of an outbreak which lasted most of the Spring. Numbers continued to be in excess of the average throughout the Summer and Autumn, and an even more extensive outbreak occurred during November and December.

The infection appears to have originated in an institution, from which it spread to one of the elementary schools. Later in the year, three or four other schools became infected, the incidence falling particularly heavily on one school.

A very definite factor in the cause of the outbreak was no doubt the low incidence of Diphtheria in recent years which had resulted in a very low specific resistance to this disease in the school population. In addition, the type of disease introduced was much worse than that which has been the experience of recent years, and a much higher percentage of children suffered from clinically severe Diphtheria.

The tendency of the disease to attack the larynx, particularly in the colder months of the year, was again evident after a long period in which this complication has been a rare one. Four of these cases required the operation of tracheotomy to relieve the resulting obstruction and one of them proved fatal.



## IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The following statement gives the figures relating to immunisation carried out during 1938 :—

Number of cases in which immunisation was commenced	...	968
Number of completed cases	... ..	852
Number of cases in which attendance ceased before completion		19
Number of Schick Tests...	... ..	27

The immunising material used during 1938 was Toxoid Anti-Toxin Floccules. Three 1 c.c. doses were given in each case, with an interval of a week between the doses.

An anterior Schick test is not done, but a test is advised and offered six months after treatment to ensure that the treatment has been sufficient.

The two dose method, using Alum Precipitated Toxoid, has recently been introduced for children of eight years of age and under, doses of .2 c.c. and .5 c.c. being given with a 14 days' interval. In the case of children showing a strong reaction with the initial dose, treatment is completed with toxoid anti-toxin floccules.

In the Autumn of 1938, a commencement was made with the provision of treatment on school premises. The response has been satisfactory, probably to some extent because fear, so naturally associated with novelty, tends to be lost as the procedure is merged with school routine. Also, little or no effort is demanded on the part of the parent. An indication is given to the effect that the attendance of parents is unnecessary, but that they are welcome, if they wish, to be present. At one School only one mother attended and she went away without witnessing the treatment, as she felt her son would be embarrassed.

### Scarlet Fever.

There was an average incidence of this disease during 1938. In sixty-one cases elementary school children were affected.

The type of disease in evidence fortunately remained mild, and the one serious case in which the complications of pneumonia and streptococcal empyema existed made a good recovery after a prolonged illness.

### Enteric Fever.

Two cases were notified during the year and in both the causative organism was *B. Typhosus*.

The first, a fatal case, was that of an elderly patient who contracted the disease while on a cruise in the Mediterranean.

In the second case the patient returned ill from a holiday in Wales, where the disease had obviously been contracted.

### Poliomyelitis.

The single case of this disease occurred in an adult patient. There was some residual paralysis of one arm.

### Dysentery.

In the two cases of this disease notified early in the year, the causal organism was Sonne's Bacillus.

At the end of 1937 and early in 1938, many cases of gastroenteritis were brought to the notice of the department, and it is probable the same organism may have been responsible in some of these cases also. Careful enquiries into milk supplies and supplies of uncooked foodstuffs failed to throw any light on the origin of the outbreak. Reports of more extensive outbreaks, particularly in districts near London, appeared in the medical papers at that time and failure to trace the source of infection was a common feature. The water supply as a possible source was not overlooked, but the distribution of cases made it evident that the cause lay elsewhere.

### Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

The case of cerebrospinal meningitis notified was a case sent in to the General Hospital from a county area, and the diagnosis was made in that institution.

### Puerperal Pyrexia.

Fourteen cases were notified, and of them, eleven were treated in hospital. In the other three cases home nursing was provided. All made satisfactory recoveries.

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## DELANCEY FEVER HOSPITAL REPORT.

### Accommodation.

Notes on the accommodation provided at this Hospital were given in the Report for 1937.

The figures given were based on the long recognised standard for fever hospitals of a minimum of 144 square feet of floor space per bed, a standard which is even exceeded in modern recommendations. The height of the wards at the Delancey Hospital allows ample wall and cubic space to comply with the other standards. On this basis the accommodation works out at a total of 74 beds.

In practice the number of beds equipped for reception of patients is as follows:—

Public Wards	...	...	...	...	75
College Block	...	...	...	...	12
Private Wards	...	...	...	...	9
					—
Total Beds available	...	...	...	...	96
					—

In addition there is equipment for 20 beds at Longhill Smallpox Hospital, which was last used 16 years ago.

Last year the standard accommodation in certain wards in the diphtheria section was exceeded on several occasions, but the open position of the wards, the good heating, generous window space and good management enabled this to be done without undue danger.

**Staff.**

The present staff is as follows :—

<i>Nursing</i>	<i>Domestic</i>	<i>Male Staff (Non-Resident)</i>
1 Matron	1 Cook	3 Men (The wife
2 Sisters	1 Head Laundress	of one of these
3 Staff Nurses	10 Others	assists with
1 Assistant Nurse		laundry 3 days
7 Probationers		a week)
—	—	—
14 Total	12 Total	3 Total
—	—	—

The total number of cases admitted during 1938 was 366, compared with 155 for the previous year. The increase was mainly due to the prevalence of Diphtheria, but the Scarlet Fever figure of 133 was also higher in comparison, as the 1937 figure was 94. The daily average number of beds occupied was 33·25, compared with 11·6 for 1937. The greatest number of patients accommodated at the same time was 69 on the 14th December.

**Diphtheria.**

Two hundred and eight cases were admitted, and of these, 188 were from the Borough of Cheltenham. The figures include 10 carrier cases which were not notified as " suffering " from Diphtheria.

There were nine deaths (including one case removed to Bristol for treatment in a Respirator) from this disease, making a total case death rate of 4·5% (excluding the carrier cases from the calculation).

Seven cases required the operation of Tracheotomy and four of these recovered.

During the second half of the year use was made of the highly refined serum recently put on the market which contains 10,000 units in as small a bulk as  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cubic centimetres. This much reduces the discomfort of intramuscular injections.

**Scarlet Fever.**

One hundred and thirty-three cases of scarlet fever were admitted, this number includes 75 cases admitted from the Borough of Cheltenham. Thirty cases were admitted from the Borough of Tewkesbury. All the cases recovered, though one was complicated by pneumonia and streptococcal empyema.

**Typhoid Fever.**

Two cases were admitted from the Borough of Cheltenham, and one proved fatal.

**Other Cases.**

Three cases of Scarlet Fever were complicated by the co-existence of other infectious conditions.

There was one case each of Cerebro-spinal Fever and Poliomyelitis.

The remaining eighteen cases consisted of five observation cases, three erysipelas cases and ten cases of minor infections.

### Staff.

All new probationers were tested for susceptibility to Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, and positive reactors were successfully immunised with suitable prophylactics. Certain members of the domestic staff were also tested and immunised.

### Adequacy of Accommodation and Nursing.

The call on beds for Diphtheria cases was extremely heavy in the early Spring and Autumn, and at one time all the accessory wards were brought into use. By careful management, however, it proved just possible to accept all cases.

The Matron must be congratulated on the high level of nursing maintained under what were at times very difficult conditions. No cases of cross infection occurred and fortunately no other diseases were introduced by new cases.

**Table showing cases admitted to the Delancey Fever Hospital and Authorities concerned during the Year ended the 31st Dec., 1938.**

		Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Poliomyelitis	Erysipelas	Measles	German Measles	Tonsillitis	Ophthalmia	Neonotorum	Chicken-Pox	Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough	Observation cases	TOTALS
Cheltenham Borough	...	75	188	2	1	1			3		1			2	1	3	277
Cheltenham R.D.C. ...	...	15	13				3			1						1	33
Charlton Kings U.D.C.	...	4	1														5
North Cotswold R.D.C.	...	6	4														10
Private Wards	...	3	1					1	2							1	8
Tewkesbury Borough	...	30											1				31
Staff ...	...		1							1							2
<b>TOTALS</b>	...	133	208	2	1	1	3	1	5	2	1	1	1	2	1	5	366

The Delancey Hospital at present serves the following areas :—

The Borough of Cheltenham.

The Urban District of Charlton Kings.

Agreements were signed during the year to provide accommodation for cases from the whole of the Cheltenham Rural District and the North Cotswold District.

There is a provisional agreement to take cases from the Borough of Tewkesbury.

During 1938 a "Both" respirator was purchased by the trustees.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

## New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods				New Cases				Deaths			
				Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	...	...	...	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	—
5—10	„	...	...	1	1	5	3	—	—	—	1
10—15	„	...	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—20	„	...	...	1	5	3	1	1	—	—	—
20—25	„	...	...	3	1	—	—	2	3	—	1
25—35	„	...	...	9	6	—	1	2	4	—	—
35—45	„	...	...	3	—	—	—	3	2	—	—
45—55	„	...	...	4	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
55—65	„	...	...	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
				25	15	11	7	12	9	3	2
Registrar General's Figures				...	...	...		12	10	3	4

Ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths

to total tuberculosis deaths = 15.4% not notified.

The preceding table shows the number and the age distribution of new cases and deaths from Tuberculosis during 1938. The Tuberculosis death-rates for 1938 were as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.42	} Per 1,000 of Population.
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.14	

**Treatment and Isolation of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.**

The County Council is responsible for treatment schemes and such isolation as is practicable and desirable in cases of Tuberculosis.

Cases are notified to the Medical Officer of Health of the District in which the patient is living and he is responsible for keeping a register of them.

A weekly return of new cases is transmitted to the County Medical Officer of Health, and his Tuberculosis Nurse visits the houses and makes a written report, a copy of which is sent to the District Medical Officer. When accommodation is reported to be unsatisfactory the houses are visited and the necessary recommendations are made as to rehousing.

**Disinfection.**

The difficulties associated with disinfection in the case of a disease with such a prolonged course as Tuberculosis are obvious. In addition the Tubercle Bacillus is particularly resistant to the action of antiseptics and germicides so that ordinary fumigation may be considered to be without value.

Disinfection after a death from Tuberculosis is carried out free of charge.

The disinfection of houses vacated by Tubercular patients was advocated recently by the Cheltenham branch of a national organisation and the subject was therefore considered by the Public Health Committee.

Though fumigation has no intrinsic value it was agreed that, owing to the possibility of infection being carried by dust, thorough cleaning of a house is desirable after it has been vacated by a tubercular patient and that this may not always be done, especially by the new occupiers of Council Houses. The Committee therefore agreed to bear the cost of a thorough cleaning in such cases. The Housing Manager will therefore in future be provided with a confidential copy of the Tuberculosis Register, so that on a change of tenancy this recommendation can be put into effect.

### **Un-notified Cases**

Owing to its frequently slow and indefinite onset and its chronic course, a number of cases of Tuberculosis remain un-notified.

During 1938, four un-notified cases were certified as having died from Tuberculosis. In these cases letters are written to the medical attendants asking for an explanation of the omission.

### **CHELTENHAM TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE.**

This branch of health work was inaugurated by the Mayor of Cheltenham in May, 1938.

The Committee, which is affiliated to the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, is the first to undertake work of this nature in Gloucestershire.

I am indebted to Mrs. Percival, Vice-Chairman of the Committee, for the information contained in the following notes:—

The aims of the work are as follows:—

(a) **After Care** (Post-Sanatoria), *e.g.*, after a patient leaves Standish House, the Gloucestershire Sanatorium, his future health depends greatly on the housing and financial state of the family. Overcrowding and poverty are often responsible for a relapse and subsequent return to the Sanatorium.

The **Case Committee**, which meets fortnightly, is informed of such cases by Dr. Arnott Dickson and Nurse Fforde, the tuberculosis visitor. Steps are taken, if necessary, to move the family into a larger house and provide extra beds and bedding so that the patient may be able to sleep in a separate room. It is the aim of the Tuberculosis Care Committee to help with the rent, especially where the patient is a wage earner and the income is reduced owing to his illness. Owing to lack of funds, this financial aid has so far been impossible.

(b) **Preventive.** Where the health of a family is poor and where there are members who are suspect but not actually tuberculous, much can be done by better housing, extra beds, more adequate clothing, extra nourishment and more suitable employment.

(c) **Educative.** Informing people in need of the Public Health Services about the services and encouraging them to use them. Allaying fear of Sanatorium Treatment by persuasion and inducing people to seek treatment early. Giving information on the value of fresh air, fresh milk, as against tinned milk, proper sleeping accommodation and matters of personal hygiene.



It must be remembered that although other committees exist which are quick to realise the needs of the poor and to help them, their funds and regulations only permit of help being given in cases of extreme poverty. It is obvious that where Tuberculosis is or was present in a family, extreme poverty should not be permitted and a more generous allowance of extra nourishment with better housing and more sleeping accommodation should be forthcoming.

The Cheltenham Tuberculosis Care Committee includes representatives from the N.S.P.C.C., the Health Department, Housing Department, National Council of Women, Cripples Aid Association, Infant Welfare, Charity Organisation Society, Public Assistance Committee and other bodies. Up to date it has dealt with over 50 cases all brought to its notice by Dr. Arnott Dickson and Nurse Fforde.

### NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION.

At the commencement of 1938 there were 24 Nursing Homes on the register. During the year two of them were discontinued, though one opened again later in the year under entirely new management and was re-registered. In addition one new Nursing Home was registered, leaving the same number, 24, on the register at the end of the year.

One home registered during 1937 has never received any patients and it will, therefore, be removed from the register after reasonable notice.

The accommodation of the 24 Nursing Homes has been estimated at 58 Maternity Beds and 147 Beds for other patients. This allocation is naturally not a fixed one, as beds normally reserved for maternity cases are frequently interchangeable.

The number of Maternity Cases accommodated in Nursing Homes during 1938 was 306, which gives the very low average of under 6 cases per bed.

All Nursing Homes in use were inspected at least once during 1938 and some, Maternity Homes particularly, on several occasions.

The local paper is scrutinised for advertisements offering unregistered accommodation and suitable action is taken to prevent infringements of the Acts.

### Classification of the types of cases provided for in the 24 homes.

Maternity only...	...	...	6
Medical only	...	...	7
Maternity and Medical	...	...	5
Medical and Surgical	...	...	1
Medical, Maternity & Surgical	...	...	5
<hr/>			
Total	...	...	24
<hr/>			

(Four homes have specially equipped operating theatres. Homes are included under the term "Medical" when it is a fixed policy to take medical cases only).

The above list includes the Maternity Ward of the Public Assistance Institution, which is also inspected though under County Administration. In the case of one general Nursing Home the Maternity Department is situated in a separate building and for this reason it is included separately in the table.

# MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES, 1938.

Number of Midwives in the area of the Local Supervising Authority and number of cases attended by them during the year and the capacity in which they attended.

Nature of Employment of Midwives	No. of Midwives practising at end of 1938			CASES ATTENDED			
	Dom-iciliary	Institu-tion	Totals	Capacity in which Midwives Acted	In Own Home	In Institu-tion	Totals
(a) Employed by the Council direct	nil.	nil.	—	As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	nil. nil.	nil. nil.	— —
(b) Employed by other Welfare Councils							
(i) Under arrangements made in pursuance of Section 1 of the Midwives Act 1936	nil.	nil.	—	As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	nil. nil.	nil. nil.	— —
(ii) Others. (Gloucester County Council—Swindon Road Institution)	nil.	5	5	As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	— —	23 —	23 —
(c) Employed by Voluntary Associations (Victoria Home)							
(i) Under arrangements made in pursuance of Section 1 of the Midwives Act 1936	5	—	5	As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	314 62	— —	314 62
(ii) Under private arrangements	—	4	4	As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	nil. nil.	117 73	117 73
(d) In private practice	8*	8*	16	As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	119 40	— 85	119 125
Totals	13	17	30	As Midwives As Maternity Nurses	433 102	140 158	573 260
				Combined Totals	535	298	833

Number of Domiciliary Births during the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority (see over) ... ..

560

\* Classified according to normal practice. Some of these Midwives attend cases under both headings.

## NOTES ON MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES.

The preceding table gives an almost complete summary of the work of the midwives in the Borough during the year 1938. The only cases not accounted for are those attended by Doctors, assisted by nurses who did not send in a notice of intention to practise, and the extent of whose services can therefore only be estimated.

During 1938, 860 births were notified under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, compared with 806 for 1937. These births included eight pairs of twins. In six additional cases notification was omitted or the card miscarried and the births were discovered only as a result of the routine checking of the Registrar's weekly returns. After making allowance for these factors the number of confinements for 1938 was 858. It will be seen from the table that the registered midwives have returned 833 cases. This leaves 25 cases where the nurse in attendance may or may not have been a qualified midwife or even a qualified nurse, though for various reasons this figure is only approximate.

### Domiciliary Births, 1938.

The number of births taking place in the home of the mother is estimated at 560 by deducting the number of births known to have taken place in institutions from the number of births in the Borough notified and checked against the Registrar's returns.

The figures given above, however, can only be approximately accurate as they are founded on a return of cases and births which do not in all circumstances correspond even though, for instance, twin births have as far as possible been allowed for. They are also compiled from the returns of 37 midwives and 24 nursing homes, which increases the possibility of minor errors.

### Domiciliary Service of Midwives (1936 Act).

The five midwives attached to the Victoria Home, whose salaries are paid by the Corporation, attended a total of 376 cases during 1938, or ten less than the previous year. Of these cases, 314 were midwifery cases and 62 maternity cases, a proportion which was also very similar to that of 1937. Medical aid was required on 131 occasions in connection with the midwifery cases.

Of the five midwives mentioned, three commenced their duties during 1938, one has served four years and one thirteen years.

### Cheltenham (Midwifery—Prohibition of Unqualified Persons) Order, 1939.

This order, which has been made by the Minister of Health, came into force on the 1st June, 1939. It makes it illegal, with certain exceptions, for any person who is not a certified midwife or a nurse registered in the general part of the register of nurses, to act as a nurse in a maternity case at any time during ten days immediately after childbirth. An important exception is that the order does not apply to maternity cases in nursing homes.

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

There were two maternal deaths in the Borough during 1938. One was due to shock and sepsis and the other to eclampsia.

This gives a mortality rate of 2·85, compared with 3·08, the figure for England and Wales.

### Comparative Figures (20 Year Period).

The following table shows the approximate yearly averages of maternal mortality for Cheltenham, compared with those for England and Wales over a period of 20 years, 1919—1938 inclusive.

	Cheltenham	England and Wales	Percentage Superiority of Cheltenham figures
Total Puerperal Mortality	3·45	4·06	15%
Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	1·40	1·56	10%
Other Puerperal Causes ...	2·05	2·50	18%

(Yearly averages 20 year period).

The Cheltenham figures are seen to be appreciably better than those for the country as a whole.

Although the figures for England and Wales have shown a marked improvement during the last three years the difference between the yearly average figures for the last two ten-year periods taken separately shows an improvement to the extent of only 0·02 per 1,000 live births. This represents a saving of one life per annum in 50,000 births or about a dozen lives per annum for the whole country. There are indications however that the comparison will be a very much better one at the end of the next decade.

## INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

A perusal of the Table on page 26 will show that out of a total of 573 midwifery cases, as distinct from maternity cases, 431 were attended by midwives attached to the Victoria Home.

Of the remaining 142 cases, 23 were attended by Midwives attached to the Infirmary. Both these institutions are under the charge of experienced medical men, and the work in each case is carried out under the direction and supervision of a fully qualified superintendent midwife.

Of the remaining 119 cases, three midwives attended 48, 32 and 31 cases respectively, while the remaining eight cases were divided between two midwives.

It will be clear, therefore, that inspection of midwives in the Borough of Cheltenham is very much simplified by the large amount of work undertaken by the Victoria Home.



# 1. Notices received from Midwives.

The following is a summary of the special notices received from midwives during 1938 :—

Notification of Still Births	...	...	...	...	10
„ Death of Infant	...	...	...	...	6
„ Death of Mother	...	...	...	...	2
„ Artificial Feeding being adopted	...	...	...	...	14
„ Liability to be a Source of Infection	...	...	...	...	3
„ Having laid out of dead body...	...	...	...	...	0
Total number of Notices received					35

# 2. Number of Cases in which Medical Aid was summoned during the year under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act 1918, by a Midwife.

(i) Engaged in domiciliary practice	...	215	} Total 269
(ii) In Institutional practice	...	54	

The figure 269 represents 46·9 of the total of 573 cases which were attended in the capacity of midwife.

The following is an analysis of the reasons necessitating the calls for the assistance of a Doctor.

(a) Conditions arising before Labour	{ Albuminuria	...	...	7
	{ Other Conditions	...	...	32
(b) Miscarriage, Abortion and Premature Labour	...	...	...	2
(c) Conditions arising during Labour	{ Perineal Injuries	...	...	67
	{ Delayed Labour	...	...	40
	{ Abnormal Presentations	...	...	12
	{ Abnormal Haemorrhage	...	...	10
	{ Retained Products of Conception	...	...	4
(d) Conditions arising after Labour	{ Other conditions	...	...	3
	{ Rise of Temperature	...	...	14
	{ Other conditions	...	...	14
(e) Condition of the Infant	{ Feebleness or Prematurity	...	...	16
	{ Inflamed Eyes	...	...	32
	{ Deformities	...	...	8
	{ Other conditions	...	...	8
Total				269

### Medical Aid.

During the year a list was drawn up of Medical men willing to respond to calls for assistance from Midwives.

The list is divided so as to separate those willing to respond to calls in general and from those who are only ready to comply in the case of their own patients.

This list has been approved by a special Committee and will be revised from time to time.

### Doctors' Fees.

	£	s.	d.
Total amount of fees paid to Doctors during the period April 1st, 1938 to March 31st, 1939 ...	134	5	0
Amounts received :—			
(1) From patients in respect of accounts incurred during the same period ...	25	3	3
(2) On previous accounts ...	14	18	3
	<hr/>		
	40	1	6
Total Cost of Medical Aid during the period	<hr/>		
	£94	3	6

The assessment of the patient's liability to repay the whole or part of the fee charged by the Doctor is made in accordance with an approved scale. During 1938 this Assessment amounted to £49 18s. 3d., which was only £9 16s. 9d. more than the amount actually received, a by no means unsatisfactory state of affairs.

### GYNAECOLOGICAL CLINIC.

This Clinic was opened on the 3rd February, 1938, with the main object of taking over the Birth Control work which was previously carried on as an associated activity of the voluntary Infant Welfare Association. It was not a function so widely separated from the aims and objects of an Infant Welfare Association as might appear at first sight, because the Welfare Doctors are naturally in a position to know when the health of a mother is such as to render further pregnancy undesirable on health grounds. The regulations of the Ministry of Health with regard to grant, however, rendered it advisable to establish the work as a direct Public Health Service. It is still run in very close association with the work of the Welfare Centres, and the Corporation were fortunate to obtain the services of Dr. Gwendoline Brown, one of the Welfare doctors, to take charge of the Clinic. She has the assistance of one of the Health Visitors and a clerk.

The scope of the work is not limited to Birth Control, and an arrangement has been made for suitable cases to be referred to a consultant at the General Hospital. Where patients are able to pay, a fee of 10/6 is charged for the first visit; the second visit within six months is free and subsequent visits are charged at 2/6.



A special arrangement has been made to enable County cases, sent by the County Maternity Medical Officer, to obtain advice at the Clinic.

The giving of birth control advice is limited to Mothers in whose cases further pregnancy would be detrimental to health.

During 1938, 20 Clinics were held and 54 mothers attended. The number of separate attendances totalled 107.

## THE MATERNITY WORK OF THE VICTORIA HOME. STATISTICS FOR 1938.

### 1. Ward Cases.

			<i>Midwifery Cases</i>	<i>Maternity Cases</i>
Borough Cases	133	comprising	87	46
County Cases	55	„	30	25
Worcester County	2	„	—	2
	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	190	„	117	73
	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>

Of the Borough cases, 93 were private cases and the remaining 40 were assisted under the Borough Scheme. The corresponding figures for County cases were 27 and 30.

The average duration of stay in hospital of the cases admitted to the wards for confinement was fourteen days.

The number of calls for medical aid arising from the 117 midwifery cases attended in the ward was 58. This represents a high percentage, but it must be remembered that many of these cases were only admitted because they were abnormal.

In addition to the above-mentioned cases, 38 patients, 24 Borough and 14 County, were admitted, mostly for short periods of one or two days for Ante-natal observation treatment and special tests.

### 2. District Cases.

Midwifery	...	...	...	...	314
Maternity	...	...	...	...	62
				<hr/>	
			Total	...	376
					<hr/>

This statement shows the work of the "Domiciliary" Service provided under the Midwives' Act, 1936 by the Home, in conjunction with the Borough Council. Five midwives are engaged solely on this work, and they therefore had an average of 75 cases each, which is a satisfactory number. Medical assistance was called for on 131 occasions, that is in 35% of the cases.

The cases are taken in turn and little or no difficulty with patients has arisen from this method of allocation, which although it provides the best way of equalising and spreading the work, does not allow of choice of midwife by the mother.

3. **Ante-natal Clinic and Post Natal.** (held at the Victoria Home).  
Attendances by expectant Mothers during 1938 :—

	<i>Ante-Natal</i>	<i>Post-Natal</i>
(a) Number of Attendances ...	2176	11
(b) Number of individual mothers attending ... ..	542	11
(c) Percentage of total notified births (live and still) re- presented by the number in (b) ... ..	63%	—

The percentage given under reference (c) above is a figure required by the Minister of Health for the purpose of comparison of the Ante-Natal Work of one town with another. It is an approximate index of the proportion of expectant mothers who attend the Ante-Natal Clinic. It will be seen that the figure is based on the relationship between the number of notified births and the number of attendances at the clinic.

The births in the Victoria Home have, up to the present time, included quite a number of cases where the parents live in country districts, 57 in 1938, but these mothers are expected to, and usually do, attend the Ante-Natal Clinic.

Under the new arrangements whereby private cases are not accepted, this figure will be considerably reduced.

4. **Home Helps.**

The Borough Council has allocated a sum of £25 to be used in providing "Home Helps" during the confinement of the mother when suitable assistance is not otherwise available. This money is placed at the disposal of the Victoria Home because the district midwives are considered to be the most likely persons to know when assistance of this nature is required.

During 1938, Home Helps were provided in seven cases.

**Emergency Unit.**

This unit was established for the Council by the staff of the Victoria Home during 1938. It provides the services of a specialist obstetrician and a midwife, with sterilized dressings and equipment and is available at the call of the Doctor in charge of a case, at any time of night or day, for providing treatment in the home of any patient suffering from an obstetrical complication where emergency treatment in the home is desirable in the interests of the patient rather than risking the delay and other dangers associated with removal to Hospital.

At the moment the above only applies to residents in the Borough of Cheltenham, though the advantages of the service for neighbouring districts have been offered to the County.

No call was made on the unit during 1938.

## Pathological and X-ray Examinations.

Considerable call was made during 1938 on these additional services which have recently been provided by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee for maternity cases admitted to the Home.

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## INSTITUTIONAL MATERNITY ACCOMMODATION.

This matter first came under special consideration at the end of 1934, in connection with requests for beds for mothers expecting confinement under bad or unsuitable housing conditions.

The accommodation of the Victoria Home, which provides nine maternity beds exclusive of isolation and labour beds, had been reserved for abnormal cases and for mothers able to pay the moderate fee of 2½ guineas a week. Alternative accommodation at the Public Assistance Institution was finally considered not to be suitable for these cases, and the Victoria Home, in meeting this demand and the increasing general demand, reached a stage during 1937, and particularly 1938, when accommodation became unduly strained.

During 1938, the situation was considered by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, and at joint meetings of representatives of the Home, Borough and County. Alternative proposals for extension, adaptation of another existing building and the erection of a new Maternity Home under the management of the Victoria Home Committee were explored.

In the Autumn a representative Committee had the advantage of a visit from the Deputy Medical Officer (Maternity and Child Welfare) of the Ministry of Health, who inspected the sites and considered the alternative proposals and he expressed the opinion :—

(1) That the adaptation of an existing building did not at the present time find favour with the Ministry of Health, owing to the fact that the cost of adaptation and the additional cost of maintenance of adapted buildings render such schemes uneconomic and do not satisfactorily provide for the requirements of modern maternity work.

(2) That in a general way the accommodation provided at the Victoria Home was inconvenient and out of date, but that if additional land could be obtained the Ministry might give consent to a loan for an extension if no better scheme could be put forward, but that this would not really provide the type of accommodation which could be considered to be a permanent solution of the problem.

The decision of the County not to give material assistance in the construction of a new home has prevented further progress.

In order to relieve the strain on the accommodation and staff, the Committee has decided to discontinue the provision of accommodation for purely private cases, at least as a temporary expedient.

The extent to which the accommodation has been divided between Borough and County cases is shown in the following statement :—

Cheltenham Boro. Residents			County Residents		
Total	Private Cases	Special Borough Cases	Total	Private Cases	Special County Cases
Average, 5 years, 1933-37, inclusive (Midwifery and Maternity Cases)					
103	88	15	54	26	28
1938 (Midwifery and Maternity Cases) ... {					
133	112	21	57	27	30
(Ante-Natal Cases), 1938 {			Borough—24                      County—14		

Two of the cases included as County Cases in the 1938 figures came from Worcestershire ; the five year average figures also include a small number of Worcestershire cases.

The Ante-natal cases normally occupy beds for only 24 to 48 hours, but the increased demand from this source is one of the reasons for the increasing strain on the accommodation.

## INFANT WELFARE.

### Work of Health Visitors, January 1st—December 31st, 1938.

No. of Children on Register	...	...	...	...	...	3,616
„ Un-notified Live Births discovered	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ Un-notified Still Births discovered	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Home Visits paid by Health Visitors (a) 1 year and under	...	...	...	...	...	4,682
„ „ „ „ (b) over 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	6,235
„ Special visits to Mothers (Ante-natal cases 399)	...	...	...	...	...	340
„ First Visits paid by Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	...	676
„ Chicken-pox cases visited	...	...	...	...	...	58
„ Measles cases visited	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ Whooping-cough cases visited...	...	...	...	...	...	105
„ Mumps cases visited	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases visited	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Attendances of Health Visitors at Centres	...	...	...	...	...	316
„ Cases reported to N.S.P.C.C.	...	...	...	...	...	3



## Dental Treatment of Nursing and Expectant Mothers and Children under 5.

The time of the School Dentist is almost entirely occupied by this work on Saturday mornings and at the special session for mothers on Wednesday evenings.

Dentures were supplied in 61 cases. The cost price of these is usually met in full by the patients. In very necessitous cases the Charity Organisation Society have given valuable assistance and the Maternity Committee of the Council has agreed to contribute 50% of the cost in cases investigated and recommended by the Society.

The following table shows the work done by the School Dentist for the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee during 1938.

				<i>Saturday Morning</i>		<i>Wednesday Evening</i>	
				<i>Mothers</i>	<i>Children under 5</i>	<i>Mothers</i>	<i>Children under 5</i>
Attendances	...	...	...	192	57	281	9
Extractions	...	...	...	95	10	77	7
Extractions (under gas)	...	...	...	291	65	—	—
Fillings	...	...	...	21	14	12	8
Attendances for other treatment, impressions, fitting dentures, etc.	...	...	...	82	12	226	—
No of sessions held during 1938				39		45	

Total number of dentures provided during 1938 ... 61.

## Children Acts.

The following figures show the extent of the year's work under these acts.

Number of visits by Health Visitors	...	...	...	...	163
Number of visits by School Nurses	...	...	...	...	44
Number of individual children on the register at the end of the year					36
Number of children who died during the year	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Foster Mothers on the register at the end of the year					23

The home visits necessitated by these Acts are made by the Health Visitors in the case of children under 5 and by the School Nurses where children between the ages of 5 and 9 are concerned.

The duties under the Act have been carried out thoroughly.

In two cases where children were received by foster parents who had not given the required notice, letters were written by the Town Clerk indicating that proceedings would be taken if a further offence was committed.

In one case where notice had not been given and it was considered that the foster parent had no reasonable excuse, the Committee gave



instructions for proceedings to be taken. On reconsideration of this case it was finally decided not to prosecute, partly because no payment had been received, although there was evidence that arrangements had been made for payment, and partly because there were reasons why it was inadvisable, owing to the circumstances of the parent, to bring the matter into Court.

No sanctions for reception of children were given under Section 3 of the 1908 Act to persons previously the subject of complaint nor in respect of premises previously found unfit or dangerous. No order was obtained under Section 67 of the Act of 1932 for removal of a child to a place of safety.

### Supply of Milk to Necessitous Mothers and Children.

	1938	(1937)
Number of pints of milk provided free during the year ... ..	172,275	(126,304)
Number of Infants or Mothers receiving 1 pint (or more) of milk daily (average) ... ..	346	(278)
Of these the average number of families receiving 2 pints daily was ... ..	125	(71)
Number of pints per Live Birth (R.G.) ... ..	245	(185)

  

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Cost of Milk ...	£461	£638	£1252 2 0	£1421 18 0	£1957 7 7
Dried Milk			£10 19 0	£7 17 6	£15 11 0

### ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

This Clinic provides for school children as well as children under school age.

The attendances are kept separate and the fees due to the Cheltenham General Hospital and to the Orthopaedic Surgeon and Nurse are paid in proportion to the attendances.

The figures given in this report refer to children under school age only, unless otherwise stated.

A quarterly report is made to each Committee.

### Summary of Work done during the Year and Analysis of Cases Treated.

Number of special Clinics held ... ..	24	
	<i>Committee Responsible</i>	
	<i>Education</i>	<i>Maternity and Child Welfare</i>
Number of individual children on the Register at the end of the year ...	76	62
No. of Surgeon's consultations ... ..	133	133
No. of separate attendances for treatment	510	165
Total attendances	643	298

At the end of the year 62 cases remained under treatment. In addition 24 cases were taken off the register, making a total of 86 children treated under the Authority's Scheme during 1938. It will be seen that the number of surgeon's consultations for each committee was 133. This is of course merely a coincidence. Treatments in the case of children under school age have, however, been required much less frequently than by school children. This is accounted for by the nature of the defects. In the case of smaller children, corrections of the footwear and alterations in feeding are required more than massage.

The reasons for removal from the register of the 24 cases are as follows :—

Transferred to Glos. County Orthopaedic Scheme on leaving Cheltenham ... ..	2
Transferred to other Areas ... ..	1
Left Cheltenham ... ..	1
Transferred to the Education Committee ... ..	20
	—
Total ... ..	24
	—

**Summary of Conditions requiring Treatment in 62 Cases remaining on the Register at the end of 1938 and in the 24 Removed during 1938 :—**

<i>Disease</i>	<i>On Register 1st Jan., 1939</i>	<i>Removed from Register during 1938</i>
Flat Feet ... ..	23	6
Flat Feet and Knock Knees ... ..	11	2
Knock Knees ... ..	3	2
Bow Legs ... ..	7	6
Talipes Equino Varus ... ..	6	2
Fractures ... ..	1	1
Spina Bifida ... ..	1	—
Torticollis ... ..	1	1
Pidgeon Chest ... ..	—	1
Miscellaneous ... ..	9	3
	—	—
Totals ... ..	62	24
	—	—

**Ancillary Orthopaedic Activities.**

There were no admissions to Hospital under the Maternity and Child Welfare section of the work and only one X-ray was required, at a total cost of £1 3s. 6d.

**Provision of Instruments.**

The Cripples Aid Society continues to assist the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee by providing appliances. A quarterly account is submitted by the Society and 50% of the expense is refunded by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

## CHELTENHAM INFANT WELFARE ASSOCIATION. THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT.

April 1st, 1938 – March 31st, 1939.

Thanks are due to Mrs. Lock Mellersh, President of the Association, for permission to include this report with Cheltenham Health Report as has been customary for many years.

### MEETINGS OF INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

For Babies and Children up to Five Years.

At Grosvenor Street, every Tuesday	...	...	2.30
At Clare Street Hall, every Wednesday	...	...	2.30
At St. Mark's Sunday School, Gloucester Road,			
every Wednesday	...	...	2.30
At Baker Street Institute, every Thursday	...	...	2.30
At Bennington Hall, (closed Jan., 1939)	...	...	
At St. Michael's Hall, Whaddon,			
every Thursday	...	...	2.30

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Attendances at Grosvenor Street (46 meetings)	1784	Infants	2712	Toddlers	4496
Attendances at Clare Street (46 meetings)	1446	Infants	2084	Toddlers	3530
Attendances at St. Mark's (46 meetings)	1270	Infants	1600	Toddlers	2870
Attendances at Baker Street (46 meetings)	955	Infants	1540	Toddlers	2495
Attendances at Bennington Hall (37 meetings)	676	Infants	860	Toddlers	1536
Attendances at St. Michael's Hall ( 9 meetings)	178	Infants	421	Toddlers	599
				Total	15526

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### QUARTERLY TODDLER INSPECTIONS.

Grosvenor Street (3 meetings)	...	40	attendances.
Clare Street (4 meetings)	...	39	„

Number of individual Children attending the four Centres :—

Grosvenor Street, 395 ; Clare Street, 299 ; Baker Street, 322 ; St. Mark's, 258 ;				
Bennington Hall, 72 ; St. Michael's Hall, 246	...	...	...	1592
Visits paid by Club Visitor (since April 1st, 1938)	...	...	...	1044

**CHEL TENHAM INFANT WELFARE ASSOCIATION**

Cash Account, April 1st, 1938—March 31st, 1939.

[illegible]

E. W. GARLAND, Hon. Treasurer.



## NOTES ON THE WORK OF THE ASSOCIATION—1938-39.

The rapidly increasing growth of the Whaddon district made it imperative to consider the opening of an Infant Welfare Centre in that area. With reluctance the Committee felt obliged to close the Bennington Hall Centre. Very excellent work had been done there in the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years of its existence, but owing to altered housing conditions it was felt that the Baker Street and Grosvenor Street Centres would adequately serve the centre of the town and it was now necessary to provide for a new and rapidly expanding district. It has always been the policy of the Committee to have Centres so placed that they are easily accessible to the majority of the mothers; a busy mother with young children should not have too far to go for help and advice.

On February 2nd, St. Michael's Mission Hall, Whaddon, was opened as an Infant Welfare Centre by Alderman Leigh James, supported by the Mayor, the Medical Officer of Health, the Vicar of All Saints' and the Chairman of the Infant Welfare Association. Several members of the Town Council and their wives were also present, and after viewing the work being carried on were entertained to tea by the Association.

For some while it had been felt that the diversity of prescriptions for tonics and ointments in use at the Centres tended to complicate the work of the voluntary dispensers and was also uneconomic. In June the Medical Officer of Health in consultation with the Medical Officers at all the Centres standardized the list of prescriptions with very material benefit to all concerned.

The Committee by their Social Activity Fund (the proceeds of Jumble Sales, Sale of Clothes, etc.) helped to send several mothers and children to the Church Army holiday home at Weston-super-Mare, the former benefitting very much from a restful holiday. One child was sent to a Children's Convalescent Home.

Mrs. Sumsion resigned from the Committee when she left Cheltenham last September, she had been on the Committee for some years and worked at the Centres and will be much missed. Miss Cardew has also left Cheltenham, so was forced to resign her post as Nurse Assistant, her place has been taken by Miss Lamb, who was trained at the Mothercraft Training Society (Dr. Truby King).

A Member of the Committee and the Secretary attended for one day in July at the English Speaking Conference on Maternity and Child Welfare at Bristol, the papers heard proved most interesting and were followed by valuable discussions.

The quarterly inspections for Toddlers for Grosvenor Street and Clare Street have been continued during the year, the attendances have been most satisfactory and the mothers are keen to have their children examined in this way.

A number of hand-knitted vests have been sold at the Centres during the year, model baby clothes have been exhibited and in addition "safety harness" for cot, chair or pram, in webbing is now on sale, as is also an excellent cookery book.

All the Centres are now on the card index system, this has been done gradually as the old registers were used up. The increasing numbers has made this method essential for speed and economy of time and labour.

Several more large toys have been purchased for the Centres, including three rocking chairs and a nursery slide, all of which are a source of endless joy to the toddlers.

The motto given to the Voluntary Workers at the Bristol Conference was " Prove your reliability," and the Committee wish to record their very grateful thanks to all their helpers who so splendidly have proved their reliability during the past year.

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### **SUPERANNUATION EXAMINATIONS.**

Medical examinations of candidates selected for posts under the Corporation are required before appointments are confirmed.

This course is adopted to safeguard the Corporation as far as possible against the early retirement of an officer on superannuation or the interference with full service which might result from chronic ailments.

Certificates in each case are provided for the information of the Finance Committee and the head of the Department concerned.

During 1938 the Medical Officer of Health made 26 examinations for the purposes of the Superannuation Act.

# Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

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REPORT OF BOROUGH SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1938.

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*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Cheltenham.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my eleventh Report as Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer for the Borough of Cheltenham.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and the Home Office, tables giving full particulars of the inspections made, together with notes and local information will be found in the Report.

The usual visitation of work in progress, drainage work at institutions, schools, houses, business premises and workshops, also inspections under the Shops Act have been maintained.

The work of the Sanitary Inspectors during 1938, in so far as the Health Department is concerned, does not call for any special mention, except the departmental activities in regard to civil defence. Considerable time and energy was given to Air Raid Precautions, and as an Executive Officer for the Decontamination Services of the Area, which included other administrative districts, I am able to report that favourable progress has been made.

The routine work of Housing has special significance, because the department was concerned in the difficult but necessary procedure of clearing up past clearance areas and individual unfit houses and basements. No less than 800 separate entries of condemned and other properties were being handled by the end of the year.

The only change in the staff during the year was the appointment of Mr. W. L. Booy, as a pupil in the department.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committees for the help and consideration given to me in carrying out my duties as a Sanitary Officer.

I desire once again to record my appreciation of the loyal and valued assistance rendered to me by the District Inspectors and the staff during another year of strenuous activity.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. R. JEFFORD,

M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A.

June, 1939.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following Table shows the amount of Routine Inspection  
Work performed by the Sanitary Inspectors.

## Details of Inspection—TABLE No. I.

TOTAL NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,929
WORK IN PROGRESS.							
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,394
INTERVIEWS.							
Number of interviews with Builders, Contractors, Owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	460
DWELLING HOUSES.							
Number inspected and particulars recorded (Housing Acts, 1930)	...	...	...	...	...	...	243
Number found to be totally unfit for human habitation	...						80
„ „ „ not in all respects fit for habitation	...						467
„ inspected (special enquiries, etc.)	...	...	...				1,207
„ „ (ordinary inspections)	...	...	...				304
„ „ re infectious disease	...	...	...				33
„ „ after service of notice (re inspections)	...						1,370
„ „ re water supply	...	...	...				—
„ „ on complaint of Rent Restriction Act	...						—
„ „ re Underground Sleeping Rooms (Sec. 20 H.A., 1930)	...	...	...				48
„ visits Overcrowding Survey	...	...	...				1,757
„ inspected for Sec. 51 Certificate	...	...	...				21
SCHOOLS.							
Number of visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
FACTORIES.							
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
OFFICES.							
Number of inspections, Sec. 46, P.H.A. 1936	...	...					45
WORKSHOPS	...	...	...	...	...	...	55
Outworkers' inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
BAKEHOUSES.							
Factory inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Ordinary „	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
COWSHEDS AND FARMS.							
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.							
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	129
ICE CREAM PREMISES.							
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	15



SLAUGHTERHOUSES.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	1,649
PUBLIC ABATTOIR.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	781
BUTCHERS' AND GROCERS' SHOPS, COLD STORES, ETC.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	762
OFFENSIVE TRADES.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	80
FRIED FISH SHOPS.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	23
COMMON LODGING HOUSES.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	34
HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	1
FOOD SHOPS (TOTAL).						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	973
SHOPS' ACT, 1934.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	173
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.						
Number of visits and inspections	...	...	...	...	...	1,850
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CONVENIENCES.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	40
PLACES LICENSED FOR PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	9
PLACES WHERE ANIMALS ARE KEPT.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	9
SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	36
TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	3
MARKET STALLS AND FAIRS.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	277
RAT INFESTATION.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	164
MINOR SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	7
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REFUSE TIPS.						
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	...	1

**Sanitary Improvements made and Defects remedied under the  
Supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.**

TABLE No. II.

## HOUSES.

Dwelling houses improved	...	...	...	...	...	112
Provided with sufficient w.c. and sanitary accommodation						1
„ „ „ water supply	...	...	...			—
„ „ Internal or separate water supply	...	...				29
Roofs overhauled and repaired	...	...	...	...		150
New floors laid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	500
Yards and areas paved...	...	...	...	...	...	74
Eaves gutters and rainwater down pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	357
Rainwater down pipes disconnected from drain	...	...				—
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	540
Rooms repaired	...	...	...	...	...	495
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	191
Disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	...		165

## SCHOOLS.

Sanitary conveniences improved and cleansed	...	...				Nil
---	-----	-----	--	--	--	-----

## BAKEHOUSES.

Cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	32
Found in an insanitary condition	...	...	...	...		—

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisances found and abated...	...	...	...	...	...	—

## DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

Sanitary condition improved...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	68
New Registrations	...	...	...	...	...	—

## ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS' PREMISES.

Cleansed ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Sanitary condition improved...	...	...	...	...		—

## OFFENSIVE TRADES' PREMISES.

Cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	26
Sanitary condition improved...	...	...	...	...	...	2

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sanitary condition improved...	...	...	...	...	...	—

## DRAINS.

Opened and examined ... ..	53
Water tests applied to drains ... ..	556
Smoke „ „ „ and soil pipes... ..	346
New drains laid... ..	338
Length in yards of stoneware pipe drains laid ... ..	3,523
„ „ of heavy cast iron drains „ ... ..	2,551
Manholes and inspection chambers provided ... ..	575
Intercepting traps fixed ... ..	321
Iron and stoneware gully traps fixed... ..	709
Drains flushed ... ..	100

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL SCHEMES.

Provision of septic tanks, filter beds and effluent drains ...	4
--	---

## SUBSOIL DRAINS.

Subsoil drains laid ... ..	8
----------------------------	---

## WATER CLOSETS.

New water closets built ... ..	331
New w.c. pans of the washdown type fixed ... ..	414
Flushing boxes fixed to w.c.'s ... ..	271
„ „ repaired ... ..	117
Water closets and drains unstopped ... ..	163
Defective and dirty w.c. pans .. ...	152

## SOIL AND VENTILATING SHAFTS.

New soil and ventilating shafts fixed... ..	333
---	-----

## WASTE PIPES.

New waste pipes fixed and repaired ... ..	657
Trapped and disconnected ... ..	737
Siphonage or vent pipes fixed... ..	300

## SINKS.

New sinks, baths and lavatory basins fixed... ..	814
--	-----

## ASH RECEPTACLES.

New moveable galvanised with covers provided ... ..	40
---	----

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notices sent to Masters and Mistresses of schools with regard to infectious disease ... ..	110
Notices sent to Parents with regard to infectious disease	99
„ „ „ Public Library with regard to infectious disease ... ..	18
Articles of clothing disinfected ... ..	13,816
„ „ „ etc., disinfected for outside Sanitary Authorities, etc. ... ..	2,024

## NOTICES, ETC.

The total number of inspections made during the year was 16,929. In 675 houses and premises dealt with, nuisances to the number of 7,550 were discovered, of which 7,430 were abated, and in dealing with sanitary defects from which they arose, 144 preliminary or informal and 185 statutory or formal notices were served.

The number of letters received and dispatched by the Department was 1,034. In order to supervise sanitary and housing work in progress 6,394 visits were made. The number of complaints received in the Health Department numbered 682 as against 675 in the previous year.

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## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Very few complaints were received, but the staff made 36 special visits for the purpose of taking observations regarding smoke nuisances. A smoke consuming apparatus was installed at a factory laundry which was again the subject of complaint, and it was necessary on the representation of the Manager to write to the Industry Coal Board, in order that a better coal fuel, suitable to the boiler, might be made available. The use of inferior coal was the subject of complaint at another factory, and the complaints ceased when a suitable fuel was introduced.

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## PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

### 1. Common Lodging Houses.

The usual report was made to the Council, in December, by the Chief Sanitary Inspector on the general conduct of the lodging houses which was satisfactory. Rowton House, Grove Street, and The Nelson, High Street, were registered for 12 months; Cumberland Villa and The Shamrock, Grove Street, were only registered for three months. The View Committee were asked to inspect these premises and consider the question of renewing the registration for a longer period.

Two common lodging houses included in Clearance Areas were closed and the premises demolished. The reduction in number of these lodging houses, which in 1925 was ten, does not appear to have appreciably increased the number of persons using the four remaining premises.

### 2. Houses Let in Lodgings.

There are 14 of these premises on the Register. Few inspections were made, except for the purpose of controlling overcrowding.

### 3. Cellars, Underground and Basement Dwellings.

Considerable attention has been paid by the Public Health and Housing Committees in recent years in regard to this type of housing accommodation, with the result that 9 such dwellings have been closed, and 37 have been altered and amended to comply with the regulations. The number of inspections made during the year was 48.

### 4. Moveable Dwellings (Tents, Vans and Sheds).

There has been a constant watch kept for this type of dwelling and prompt action has always been taken by the Committee, so that Cheltenham has been saved from invasion by these encampments, which have ruined some rural and urban districts.



The case may be cited where permission was given for the use by a caravan, of land adjoining licensed premises for one night, and 12 months elapsed before its removal. Notices were served under the Housing Act, and finally a Demolition Order was made after warnings and threats had proved of no avail. It was not until the Sanitary Inspector, with a police escort, and a horse and driver with shafts for the caravan arrived on the ground, that the owner realising that further resistance was useless, removed out of the district. The gipsy fraternity require this kind of treatment, which of course would be communicated to others who are likely to act in the same way.

### 5. Camping Sites.

Two applications were received for a licence to use land as a site for Moveable Dwellings, during the period 1st April to October 31st inclusive.

(1) Number of Sites used during 1938	...	...	...	2
(2) Number of Sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	2
(3) Estimated number of Campers resident in the Area at one time during the Summer season, 1938...	...	...	...	38

The licences were granted in each case for a limited number of caravans, with a stipulated minimum space allowance of 8 feet between the tents or caravans, and subject to the maintenance of a satisfactory standard of sanitation and the provision of an adequate water supply.

### 6. Hotels, Public Houses, Registered Premises and Restaurant Kitchens.

There are 80 hotels, refreshment premises and restaurant kitchens and 108 public houses in the Borough. Many of the leading hotels have obtained a Corporation Sanitary Certificate, others have been reconstructed and modernised and the sanitary fittings, etc. have been installed under supervision.

### 7. Places of Public Entertainment.

The places of public entertainment in the Borough consist of 1 Theatre and Opera House, 6 Cinemas and some 10 other premises used principally for Concerts and Dancing. All the cinemas except one, have satisfactory sanitary accommodation. The defective one is to be demolished and rebuilt.

### 8. Offensive Trades.

The following offensive trades are carried on in the Borough:—  
1 Fellmonger ; 1 Tripe Dresser ; 1 Dealer in Raw Hides and Skins ;  
21 Fried Fish Shops ; 11 Dealers in Iron, Metal, Bones and Rabbit Skins ;  
2 Dealers in Rags.

### Fish Frying.

In one case the installation of a new range resulted from official action. One new fish frying business was commenced, the shop and type of apparatus being subject to the approval of the Department. Twenty-three inspections were made under the bye-laws with regard to limewashing and general conduct.

## 9. Slaughterhouses (Private).

The number of inspections of registered premises was 1649, and there was found to be a general observance of the bye-laws with regard to cleansing and maintenance of the buildings.

## 10. Slaughterhouse (Public Abattoir).

The returns of animals slaughtered show an increase of 1,604 compared with the previous year. In this figure are included 1,504 sheep. This establishment is of considerable importance in the district for the slaughter of animals for human consumption and the working generally is to the credit of the Master Butchers and the slaughtermen.

The Council have succeeded in thoroughly modernising the premises, and should it be necessary in a time of national emergency to bring this building under Government control it will be available for supplying meat to a considerable population.

The control of this establishment is in the hands of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, with a superintendent in charge, and all meat inspection is carried out by qualified meat inspectors.

### Public Abattoir Trading Account, ending 31st March, 1938.

<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	s.	d.	<i>Income.</i>	£	s.	d.
Rates, Taxes, Insurance	47	13	3	Slaughtering Fees ...	352	16	10
Superintendent's Wages	182	0	0	Licences ...	2	5	0
Labour and Hauling, removal of offal and Relief Man ...	126	17	5	Telephone calls ...	1	8	5
Sundry painting, white- washing, repairs, etc.	224	6	1		356	0	3
Electricity, lighting and power... ..	24	2	2				
Coal and wood and coke	24	3	9				
Sundry fittings and materials ... ..	74	9	1				
Printing, books, etc. ...	9	3	0				
Water Supply ... ..	10	17	10				
Telephone ... ..	7	12	1				
Laundry Work... ..	2	12	5				
Uniform ... ..	1	19	0				
	735	16	1				
Loan Charges—							
Contributions to Sink- ing Fund £32/0/0							
Interest (including Tax) £33/6/0	65	6	0	Deficit... ..	445	1	10
Total	£801	2	1	Total	£801	2	1

# Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

## DRAINAGE, SEWERS AND SANITATION.

### 1. House Drainage.

In consequence of written reports by the Chief Sanitary Inspector that there were reasonable grounds for believing that the sanitary conveniences, drains, etc., in connection with 53 houses and premises were in such a condition as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance, the Local Authority ordered the necessary examination or test.

During the year the department has supervised the laying of 3,523 yards of stoneware pipes and 2,551 yards of heavy cast-iron pipes, also the fixing of 321 intercepting traps, 700 gully traps and 575 inspection chambers and manholes. In connection with the work, 556 water tests and 346 smoke tests were applied to drains, soil pipes and ventilating shafts.

The number of existing buildings where plans of proposed alterations and additions were approved by the Town Planning Committee was 37, and in each case the sanitary work was carried out to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Inspector.

### 2. Closet Accommodation.

The inspections made under the Shops Act reveal a serious shortage in the accommodation requisite and necessary for the separation of the sexes. From the general housing point of view in Cheltenham it is satisfactory to report that with the elimination of areas under the Clearance Schemes there are now few cases where closet accommodation is shared between two houses.

### 3. Sewers.

The Sanitary Inspector having reported rats working out of the sewers, these were relaid in St. Anne's Terrace and St. Stephen's Road, at a cost of £770. The sewer at Arle was relaid at a cost of £563, owing to complaints received of flooding in that district. The Borough Surveyor having reported upon the general system of sewers and surface water drainage on account of surcharging of sewers and flooding in various districts submitted estimates for reconstruction of sewers as follows :—(1), Chelt Main Sewer, £72,800 ; (2), Rowanfield Road Sewer, £11,633 ; (3), Part of Wyman's Brook Sewer, £5,101.

### Flooding.

Cheltenham is not alone as a town where the sewers have become insufficient to receive the sewage and surface water due to the building of numerous houses. These sewers were in many cases constructed 100 years ago, and with no control of building in those days, little regard was paid to the development of basements and cellars. Consequently the surcharging of house drains in basements by overloaded sewers has been a constant problem for the Health Department. Mention should be made of a successful attempt to deal with a few houses by the introduction of anti-flooding valves and the diversion of roof

water into the street channel. The cost to the Council was £118 13s. 0d., whereas the alternative scheme, a new sewer for the district, was estimated to cost £8,000.

#### 4. Corporation Sanitary Certificate.

An examination of the Model Building Bye-laws, relating to drainage and sanitary waste pipes and appliances, which are to be adopted and come into operation in 1939, makes it clear that the established principles of sanitation which have been recognised for many years have been disregarded. In registering my disapproval of the Bye-laws as a public health official, I do so with the support of this Local Authority and the builders and sanitary engineers of this district. Have the principles of sanitation which came into prominence during the prevalence of bad fever epidemics, in the middle of the last century, been relegated as of no account in maintaining efficient health conditions?

The demand for the Corporation Sanitary Certificate is still in evidence, no less than 1,482 certificates having been issued since the commencement. Owners of houses where certificates have been issued may be assured of the general sanitary fitness of their premises.

Certificates granted, 1938 :—

Eastnor, Sydenham Villas ;

St. Nicholas, Eldorado Road.

#### 5. Sewage Disposal Schemes (Minor).

The Drainage effluent from a farm under the Small Holdings Department of the Gloucestershire County Council, situated on the Borough boundary, became a nuisance. Under an arrangement between the Borough and the Rural Authority, the Chief Sanitary Inspector was instructed to prepare and supervise a new scheme for disposal. The work was duly carried out and the effluent is now innocuous and clear. At a farm where infectious disease had occurred, a complete scheme for sewage disposal and land irrigation was installed under directions from the same official.

New buildings not connected to a public sewer were duly inspected for the proper sewage disposal and drainage.

#### 6. Schools.

Owing to pressure of other duties and temporary shortage of staff it was not possible to inspect all the local schools in the Borough.

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### HOUSING.

The Local Authority have in past years effectively dealt with all the areas represented, and clearance orders have been made. The houses involved have nearly all been demolished and the sites cleared. During the year the Minister of Health confirmed an order relating to 8 houses in the Tewkesbury Road, which had previously been acquired by the Council for road widening. The Council considered official representations and 37 orders for demolition were made during 1938. In addition, 12 orders were made for the closing of basement dwellings or parts of buildings. A perusal of the detailed lists which are to be found under the heading of Houses unfit for Human Habitation will



more readily convey the results of the care and attention that is paid to this highly important section of public health administration. The keynote of success is undoubtedly the close collaboration between the members of the Council and the officials.

### **Reconditioning.**

The number of undertakings to recondition signed by owners was 51, and the number of houses reconditioned by statutory undertakings was 30. Delay is inevitable in carrying out reconditioning work because of the difficulty of securing vacant possession. Every possible assistance is given by the Housing Committee in providing alternative housing accommodation.

The work of preparing detailed specifications has been accelerated by introducing in book form a comprehensive specification which covers every detail generally expected. By numbering each item separately it only requires a single additional sheet to indicate the necessary work by numerical references, with a short note to cover exceptional work. From the experience now acquired I am able to report, no difficulty arises in the interpretation of this standard specification by the local builders and contractors.

It is of interest to record that a change of ownership is very often associated with this course of action. There is in fact a steady demand from the public to invest in this class of property.

A visit to Cheltenham was made by Mr. W. H. Collins, O.B.E., Chief Housing Inspector of the Ministry of Health, for the purpose of examining the work carried out in reconditioning houses by the Council and by private persons, under supervision of the Health Department.

### **Rehousing and Disinfestation.**

The erection of 211 houses by the Council, of which 187 were State-aided, has made possible the rehousing of the families occupying condemned houses and basements. The introduction of a rent rebate for children and the assessing of rent according to income, has been satisfactory, and it has enabled the Committee to deal with the low wage earner on an equitable basis. The meetings dealing with applications for houses are a revelation of some of the hidden tragedies of life.

### **Certificates as to the Condition of Houses.**

Applications for certificates under Section 51 of the Housing Act 1936 were received in respect of 27 houses, and on the recommendation of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, certificates were issued by the local authority for 35 houses for the maximum period of 10 years. The excess of certificates granted over applications arises from applications made in the previous year. A considerable number of the certificates issued relate to premises which have been reconditioned, and to the action of the Building Societies who rightly make this a condition of an advance in this class of property.

The experience of working this section of the Act calls for special comment, inasmuch that in addition to the promotion of better housing conditions, it offers a safeguard to the investing public, who for many years were without any guidance on the future life of working class property.

## LIST OF COUNCIL HOUSES.

TABLE No. 3.

List of Houses	Bedrooms	Class	Rent Inclusive	Number	Housing Scheme
Hope Street ...	2	A2	6/-	36	} Slum Clearance H.W.C.A. 1890 and H.A. 1925 1924 Act
Swindon Road ...	3	A	8/6	11	
Malvern Street ...	3	A	8/-	5	
Cobham Road ...	2	A2	5/9	15	
Elm Street ...	2	A2	5/9	11	
Malvern Street ...	3	A	8/-, 8/11	7	
Manser Street ...	2	A2	6/1	31	
" " ...	3	A	8/-	37	
Hudson Street ...	2	A2	6/1	13	
" " ...	3	A	8/-	38	
" " ...	3	A1	8/6	12	} Slum Clearance H.A. 1930 1924 Act
Hanover Parade ...	3	A1	8/6	7	
Crabtree Place ...	2	A2	6/1	7	
" " ...	2	A2	5/6	17	
" " ...	3	A	6/3	19	
Folly Lane ...	3	A	8/-	7	
" " ...	2	A2	6/1	11	
" " ...	3	A	8/-	33	
Margrett Road ...	2	A2	6/3	14	
" " ...	3	A	8/3	29	
St. Paul's Road ...	3	A	8/-	8	(2 Sold)
Whaddon Avenue ...	3	A	9/2	69	
Thames Road } ...	4	A4	8/-	8	Under Construction
Wymans Road } ...	3	A3	—	1	
" " and } ...	3	A3	7/6, 7/-, 6/6	92	} Slum Clearance H.A. 1930
" " } ...	2	A2	5/6	26	
Colne Avenue } ...	1	A1	4/-	8	} Non-Subsidy
Severn Road } ...	4	A4	12/2	8	
" " } ...	3	A3	11/6	56	} Sch. "C"
Churn Avenue ...	1	A1	4/-	24	
Mersey Road ...	3	A3	7/-	6	" "D"
" " ...	4	A4	8/-	26	
" " ...	5	A5	8/-	12	" "
Humber Road ...	3	A3	7/-	26	
" " ...	4	A4	8/-	25	" "
" " ...	5	A5	8/-	14	
Avon Road ...	3	A3	7/-	13	" "
" " ...	4	A4	8/-	12	
" " ...	5	A5	8/-	6	" "
Whaddon Road ...	3	A3	7/-	4	
" " ...	4	A4	8/-	12	Under Construction
" " ...	6	A6	8/-	6	
" " ...	3	A3	7/-	1	
" " ...	2	A2	7/1	20	

## LIST OF COUNCIL HOUSES—contd.

TABLE No. 3.

List of Houses	Bedrooms	Class	Rent Inclusive	Number	Housing Scheme
Whaddon Road ...	3	A3	7/-	22	"E" "E"
" " ...	3	A3	14/-	5	(Non-Suby.)
Evenlode Avenue ...	1	A1	4/-	24	" (non-Suby.)
" " ...	3	A3	14/-	6	(non-Suby.)
Windrush Road ...	3	A3	7/-	13	(non-Suby.)
" " ...	3	A3	14/-	1	(non-Suby.)
Isbourne Road ...	3	A3	7/-	6	"
Clyde Crescent ...	3	A3	7/-	59	"
" " ...	3	A3	14/-	34	(non-Suby.)
" " ...	4	A4	8/-	26	"
Tamar Road ...	3	A3	14/-	4	(non-Suby.)
" " ...	4	A4	8/-	4	"
Cam Road ...	3	A3	7/-	10	
" " ...	3	A3	7/-	11	under Construction
Dart Road ...	3	A3	7/-	16	
" " ...	4	A4	8/-	6	
Chelt Road ...	3	A3	7/-	5	} under Construction
" " ...	2	A2	—	7	
Isis Road ...	2	A2	—	1	
54, Worcester St. ...	3		12/6	1	} Houses acquired L. A. (Reconditioned)
55 " " ...	2		8/6	1	
56, " " ...	5		10/-	1	
7, Queen Street ...	2		8/6	1	
13, Brunswick St. S. ...	2		8/6	1	
15, " " ...	2		8/6	1	
58, " " ...			8/-	1	
55, " " ...			6/8	1	
104 Tewkesbury Rd. ...	2		8/6	1	
Hope Street ...			5/-, 6 -	9	
Old Bath Road ...	3	A	9/5	2	} (1 Sold) Slum Clearance H.A. 1930.
Pilley Crescent ...	2	A2	6/10	28	
" " ...	3	A	8/11	71	
Alstone Lane ...	3	A	6/9	5	
" " ...	2	A2	5/6	6	
Pates' Avenue ...	3	A	6/3, 5/9	32	
" " ...	2	A2	5/6, 5/-	35	
Moor's Avenue ...	4	A4	7/-, 6/6	11	
" " ...	3	A3	6/9, 6/3, 5/9	59	
" " ...	2	A2	6/-, 5/6, 5/-	70	
" " ...	1	A1	3/4	16	

## St. Mark's Housing Estate.

Sold	Let	Rent Inclusive (Present)	No.	Housing Scheme.
36	124	12/11 10/7	160	H.A. 1919.
154	10	12/11	164	H.A. 1923.
53	133	11/- 12/11	186	H.A. 1924.
		13/11		
1	31	15/10	32	Without Subsidy.
	16	£40 Yearly plus rates	16	H. Act 1923

## HOUSING STATISTICS, 1938.

## 1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year :—

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 559
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1677
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1935 ... 255
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1020
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 80
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 467

## 2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... 34

## 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

A.— Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 13
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
- (a) By owners ... 33
- (b) By local authority in default of owners...



## B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	22
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners ... ..	23
	(b) By local authority in default of owners...	—

## C.—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	37
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	54

## D.—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	12
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	5

## E.—Statutory Undertakings under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal undertakings were signed by owners ... ..	51
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were completed under formal undertaking given by owners ...	30
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses subject to representation but acquired by L.A. and reconditioned or reconstructed. Housing Acts, 1925 and 1935 ...	1

## 4. Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding. See page 13.

## Number of New Houses erected during 1938 :—

(a)	Total ... ..	584
	(1) By local authority ... ..	211
	(2) By other bodies or persons ... ..	373
(b)	Without State Assistance under the Housing Acts	
	(1) By the local authority ... ..	24
(c)	With State Assistance under the Housing Acts	
	(1) By the local authority ... ..	187
(d)	Proposed under (1) Housing Act, 1930 ... ..	Nil
	(2) Housing Act, 1931 ... ..	Nil
	(3) Housing Act, 1935 ... ..	30

**Details of Improvements effected (under the Housing Act, 1936)  
during the year 1938.**

TABLE No. 4.

**Dwelling-houses (General Improvements).**

Lighting and Ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	276
Provided with Corporation Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	—
Rendered free from Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	76
Provided with Food Larders	...	...	...	...	...	70
Roofs overhauled or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	150
Walls (external) pointed, cemented or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	220
Doors, and locks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	378
Chimneys rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	88
Scullery furnaces repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	51
„ floors relaid or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	53
Provided with separate and sufficient W.C. accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	1
Provided with galvanised iron ash receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	40
Provided with new sinks	...	...	...	...	...	41
„ „ „ baths	...	...	...	...	...	13
Provided with paved yards	...	...	...	...	...	74
Repaired or renewed eaves gutters and rainwater down pipes	...	...	...	...	...	357

**Living Rooms.**

Cleansed and colourwashed or papered	...	...	...	...	...	118
Light and ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	87
New windows provided or repairs to window frames	...	...	...	...	...	90
Walls and ceilings repaired or replastered	...	...	...	...	...	184
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	106
New fireplaces or cooking ovens provided	...	...	...	...	...	88

**Sleeping Rooms.**

Cleansed, colourwashed or papered	...	...	...	...	...	160
Light and ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	121
New windows provided, or repairs to window frames	...	...	...	...	...	139
Walls and ceilings repaired or replastered	...	...	...	...	...	264
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	132
New fireplaces provided	...	...	...	...	...	76
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	...	54
Natural means of lighting to do.	...	...	...	...	...	49

**Basement Rooms.**

Cleansed, colourwashed or papered	...	...	...	...	...	31
Light and ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	22
Dampness in walls prevented	...	...	...	...	...	16
Walls and ceilings repaired or replastered	...	...	...	...	...	53
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	26
Closed as underground sleeping rooms	...	...	...	...	...	9
Representations...	...	...	...	...	...	16

## HOUSES UNFIT FOR HABITATION, 1938.

1. **Representations, Section 11 Housing Act, 1936.**  
 23, 27, 40a, St. James' Street ; 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, Granley Road ; 1, 2, 3, Laurel Cottages, Rowanfield Road ; 5, Angel Row, Fairview Road ; 10, 39, Jersey Street ; Stratford Cottage, Columbia Street ; Linda Cottage, Tivoli Lane ; 5, Hewlett Place ; Farnah Cottage, Witcombe Place ; 15, 16, Grove Street ; 1, 3, 5, 6, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, Queen Street ; Knapp Cottage, New Street ; 10, Burton Street ; 4, Sun Street ; 1, 2, Lower Park Street ; 49, Fairview Street ; 32, Fairview Road ; 8, Sidney Street ; Brickyard Cottage, Folly Lane ; 14, 15, 16, Hereford Place ; 17, 23, 23a, All Saints' Road ; 13, Witcombe Place ; 50, Worcester Street ; 52, 52a, St. George's Place ; 8, 9, 10, Old Millbrook Terrace ; Bruton Cottage, Portland Street ; 30, Gloucester Place ; 2, Trent Cottages, Gloucester Place ; 9, 22, York Street ; 11, Grosvenor Street ; 20, 29, 31, Bath Terrace ; 19, 19a, 24, 25, 26, 27, Exmouth Street ; West Cottage, Tivoli ; 43, Union Street, Fairview ; 3, Beaufort Place ; 263, High Street ; 3, 9, Whitehart Street ; 18, Tewkesbury Road ; 30, Elm Street ; 38, 44a, Waterloo Street.
2. **Undertakings Signed by Owners and Accepted. Sec. 11.**  
 Eaton Cottage, Eaton Place ; 9, Kew Place ; 33, Union Street ; 30, 31, Hungerford Street ; 9, Hewlett Place ; 8, 15, Sidney Street ; 9, 11, St. James' Street ; 27, Albert Place ; West Cottage, St. George's Avenue ; 5a, St. George's Avenue ; 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, Granley Road ; 1, 2, Richmond Cottages, Sherborne Street ; 86, 87, 88, Albion Street ; Springfield Cottage, Brandon Place ; 3, 6, Queen Street ; 49, Fairview Street ; 1, 2, 3, Laurel Cottages ; 17, All Saints' Road ; 15, 20, 21, Queen Street ; 4, Sun Street ; 1, 2, Lower Park Street ; Brickyard Cottage, Folly Lane ; 15, 16, Clare Place ; 14, 15, 16, Hereford Place.
3. **Undertakings Cancelled, Section 11.**  
 12, Glenfall Street ; 5, 6, Waterloo Street ; 60, 70, Duke Street ; 32, 33, 50, Worcester Street ; 43, Montpellier Villas ; 29, 30, 31b, Hungerford Street ; 27, Brunswick Street S. ; 8, 49, Fairview Street ; 38, York Street ; 102, Swindon Road ; 10, Commercial Street ; 15, Sidney Street ; 1, 2, 3, Clare Cottages, Clare Place ; Springfield Cottage, Brandon Place ; 17, All Saints' Road ; 18, Prestbury Road ; 10, Tivoli Street ; 5, Hughes' Passage ; 13, Exmouth Street ; 1, 2, Laurel Cottages, Rowanfield Road.
4. **Demolition Orders. Sec. 11 and 13.**  
 2, Berkeley Avenue ; 27, Albert Place ; Caravan, Shakespeare Hotel Yard ; 69, St. George's Place ; 12, North Place ; 1, 2, St. Margaret's Cottages ; 40a, St. James' Street ; 2, 3, 4, Coltham Fields ; 12, Worcester Street ; 25, 26, Francis Street ; 5, Angel Row, Fairview Road ; Stratford Cottage, Columbia Street ; Linda Cottage, Tivoli Lane ; 10, 39, Jersey Street ; 5, Hewlett Place ; 15, 16, Grove Street ; 16, 17, 22, 23, Queen Street ; 32, Fairview Road ; 13, Witcombe Place ; 24, 25, 26, 27, Exmouth Street ; 14, Clare Place ; 5, 6, Croft Street.

**4a. Houses Demolished, Sec. 19 Housing Act, 1930.**

4, Zara Cottages, St. Anne's Terrace ; 10, 12, 12a, Portland Street ; 2, Hartley Place ; 56, Swindon Road ; 18, 19, King Street ; Witney Cottage, Granley Road ; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, Gordon Terrace ; 6, Fairview Street ; Red Lion Passage ; 14, 15, 31a, Sun Street ; 9a, Hewlett Place ; 42, 44, Brunswick Street.

**4b. Houses Demolished, Sec. 11 Housing Act, 1936.**

148, Bath Road ; Walcot Cottage, Sherborne Place ; 30, Sandford Street ; 2, Clare Cottages ; 10, Tivoli Lane ; 1, 2, Harp Hill Cottages ; 38a, York Street ; 10a, Commercial Street ; Hungerford Cottage, St. Paul's ; 40a, St. James' Street ; 10, 12, Malvern Street ; 1, 2, 3, 4, Kingsditch Cottages ; Caravan, Shakespeare Hotel, High Street ; 5a, St. Anne's Terrace ; 1, 2, 3, 4, Hughes' Passage ; 3, Laurel Cottages, Rowanfield Road ; 1, 2, 3, 4, Williams' Cottages, Alstone.

**4c. Houses Demolished, Slum Clearance Orders.**

1, 2, 3, 4, Cirencester Cottages, Duke Street ; 41a, 41b, Duke Street ; 2, 4, 6, 8, Jersey Street ; 7, Cakebridge Terrace ; 11, 13, 15, 18b, 24, Fairview Street ; 36, 38, 40, 42, St. Paul's Road ; 24, 26, Union Street ; 3, 4, Hartley Place ; 26, 122a, 124a, Fairview Road ; Jireh Cottage ; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, St. George's Avenue ; 17, Grove Street ; 1, 2, 3, 4, Fairview Terrace ; Summer Cottage, St. Paul's ; 6, 8, 10, 12, 31, 34, 36, Sherborne Street ; 3, Wood Court ; 1, 2, Hall's Court, Sherborne Street ; 1, 2, Douro Cottages, Sherborne Street ; 1, 2, Llewellyn Cottages, Trinity School Lane ; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Providence Cottages ; 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, Sun Street ; 1, 2, Wakefield Cottages, Upper Bath Street ; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Butt's Cottages, Malvern Street ; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Green's Place, Tewkesbury Road ; 15a, 24, 25, Sidney Street ; 1, 2, 3, Orchard Place ; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Brunswick Terrace ; 1, 2, 3, Dutton's Cottages ; 13, 14, Wellington Passage ; 33, 34, 35, Rose and Crown Passage ; 272, 274, Swindon Road ; 32, 33, Waterloo Street ; 41, 43, Jersey Street ; 1, 2, 3, 4, Woodbine Cottages ; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Reform Place ; 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, Bath Terrace.

**4d. Undertakings Accepted not to use for Human Habitation in lieu of Demolition, Sec. 11.**

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Edward Terrace ; Farnah Cottage, Witcombe Place ; Knapp Cottage, Knapp Road ; 19, Bath Road ; 30, Portland Square ; 6, Portland Cottages.

**5. Certificates Issued under Sec. 51 Housing Act, 1936.**

88, Swindon Road ; 70, Duke Street ; 20, Sandford Street ; 14, 15, Witcombe Place ; 32, 33, 43, 45, 48, 49, 50, Worcester Street ; 27, Brunswick Street S. ; 4, Waterloo Place, Waterloo Street ; 10, Hungerford Street ; 32, St. James' Street ; 10, Commercial Street ; 1, 3, Clare Cottages, Clare Place ; Springfield Cottage, Brandon Place ; 8, 49, Fairview Street ; 18, 22, Columbia Street ; 60, 62, Duke Street ; 41a, Sun Street ; 13, Exmouth Street ; 5, Hughes' Passage ; 14, Stoneville Street ; 8, Upper Bath Street ; 15, Sidney Street ; 10, Tivoli Street ; Wharfedale, Alstone.



**5a. Houses (included in above) Repaired or Reconditioned by Voluntary Action.**

88, Swindon Road ; 43, 45, Worcester Street ; 4, Waterloo Place, Waterloo Street ; 10, Hungerford Street ; 32, St. James' Street ; 18, 22, Columbia Street ; 62, Duke Street ; 8, Upper Bath Street.

**6. Representations, Sec. 12 Housing Act, 1936.**

30, Montpellier Villas ; 243a, 244, High Street ; Berkeley House, Berkeley Street ; 11, Albert Place ; 26, Winchcombe Street ; 6, 7, 10, Suffolk Square ; 2, Ormond Terrace ; 27, Montpellier Terrace ; 3, Clarence Square ; 7, Bayshill Terrace ; Seaforth, Christ Church Road ; 4, Keynsham Parade ; Ground floor room, "Hillsley," Oxford Passage.

**7. Closing Orders, Sec. 12. Parts of Buildings, Basements or Underground Rooms.**

20, Clarence Square (Basement) ; 26, Lansdown Crescent (Basement) ; 44, Tewkesbury Road ; 22, St. Stephen's Road (Basement) ; 30, Montpellier Villas (Basement) ; 243a, 244, High Street ; Berkeley House, Berkeley Street (Basement) ; 26, Winchcombe Street (Basement) ; 11, Albert Place (Basement) ; 6, 17, Imperial Square (Basements).

**8. Premises Amended to Comply with Regulations, Sec. 12.**

Deerhurst, Portland Street ; 5, Pittville Lawn ; 6, Bayshill Terrace ; 407a, High Street ; 11, Albert Place.

**9. Work carried out by Chief Sanitary Inspector by order of the Local Authority either in default or at request of Owners.  
Demolition Work.**

*Slum Clearance Orders.*

*Cost of Demolitions.*

			£	s.	d.
Nos. 4, 6 & 8, Jersey Street	...	...	30	0	0
<i>Sec. 19 Housing Act, 1930—</i>					
Nos. 30 & 31, Worcester Street	...	...	12	10	0

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**Milk Supply.**

The milk supply of Cheltenham is derived in the main from farms situated outside the Borough, as there are only 10 dairy farms situated within the boundary. No new registrations were made during the year. At one farm the cowsheds were improved by new floors, mangers, and controlled water troughs. The total number of inspections of farms, dairies and registered premises was 144.

**Meat Inspection.**

The tabular statements included in the Report contain a record of all animals slaughtered under thorough inspection, and this has been possible for the last 25 years. Constant attendance at the cold storage depots has resulted in a complete inspection of animal carcasses for human consumption. There has been an increase of 1,906 in the animals slaughtered, compared with the previous year.

**Tuberculosis in Pigs.**

Number of Pigs slaughtered 1929-1938 at the Public Abattoir and Private slaughter-houses:

Year	Public Abattoir and Private Slaughter-houses			Tuber- culosis		Found Tuberculous		Percentage found Tuberculous
1929	...	5425	...	9	...	91	...	1·677
1930	...	4398	...	7	...	57	...	1·3
1931	...	4940	...	4	...	65	...	1·316
1932	...	6614	...	8	...	212	...	3·205
1933	...	5670	...	9	...	194	...	3·42
1934	...	5015	...	6	...	190	...	3·79
1935	...	5872	...	13	...	234	...	3·98
1936	...	5864	...	3	...	223	...	3·8
1937	...	5761	...	3	...	281	...	4·87
1938	...	5783	...	3	...	299	...	5·17
Totals	...	55342	...	65	...	1846	...	3·252

The above table covers the last 10 years. On examination of it, it will be seen that though the number of pigs slaughtered year by year has remained constant the presence of tuberculosis has increased. In the earlier years a larger number of whole carcasses were taken, but the steady rise in the number of animal carcasses affected clearly indicates that tuberculosis is becoming more prevalent. Some places may attribute it to a more careful inspection, but here this has for many years been carried out thoroughly.

From enquiries made, I believe that insufficient care is taken with the breeding, and in regard to feeding, there has been evidence of infection from milk which has been reported upon in earlier years.

### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

The number of licences issued to slaughter-men as required by this Act, including that of the Superintendent and his assistant, was 46, and there were 7 renewals not applied for.

The decline in applications for licences to slaughter will call for serious enquiry in the near future, and the meat industry will be faced with a shortage of adequately skilled men, unless some encouragement is given for younger men to become skilled. An attempt was made in Cheltenham to organise classes for Slaughtermen, at the Technical College, but the response was practically nil.

The provisions of this Act in relation to stunning have been carried out with complete satisfaction.

### Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

Supervision has been exercised throughout the year, and additional inspections became necessary in order to prevent persons who have to carry out the regulations from becoming lax.

### Number of Animals slaughtered during 1938.

TABLE No. 5.

Species			Private Slaughterhouses	Abattoir	Total
Bullocks	...	...	14	70	84
Heifers	...	...	518	415	933
Cows	...	...	—	21	21
Calves	...	...	508	1,354	1,862
Sheep	...	...	5,025	4,748	9,773
Pigs	...	...	1,660	4,123	5,783
Total	...	...	7,725	10,731	18,456

## Carcases Inspected and General Report on same.

TABLE No. 6.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Totals
No. Killed ...	1017	21	1862	9773	5783	18,456
No. Inspected ...	1017	21	1862	9773	5783	18,456
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</b>						
Whole Carcases ..	1	—	1	3	11	16
Some part or organs condemned ...	135	2	7	31	257	432
Percentage affected ...	13·36	9·52	0·43	0·34	4·63	2·43
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>						
Whole Carcases ...	1	—	—	—	3	4
Some part or organ condemned ...	36	2	1	—	296	335
Percentage affected ...	3·6	9·52	0·05	—	5·17	1·81
Totals ...	173	4	9	34	567	787
Percentages on Totals ...	17·01	19·04	0·48	0·34	9·8	4·21

## Carcases Condemned as Totally Unfit for Human Food.

TABLE No. 7.

Species	T.B.	Imma- ture	Inflam- matory Conditions	Bacter- ial Disease Not T.B.	Abnormal Pathologi- cal Conditions	Total Number of Animals
Cows ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heifers ...	1	—	—	1	—	2
Pigs ...	3	—	2	6	3	14
Sheep ...	—	—	1	—	2	3
Calves ...	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total ...	4	1	3	7	5	20



TABLE No. 8.

					Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lbs.
Beef in carcase	...	...	...	...	—	13	—	24
Pork „	...	...	...	...	—	6	2	24
Veal „	...	...	...	...	—	—	1	4
Mutton „	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	6
Meat not in carcase	...	...	...	...	2	—	2	20
Organs	...	...	...	...	3	—	3	12
Total					6	2	3	6

## Various Organs condemned as Unfit for Human Food.

TABLE No. 9.

		Heads	Lungs	Hearts	Livers	Stomachs	Kidneys	Spleens	Mesenteries	Instestines
Tuberculosis	Cows	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1
	Heifers	23	19	3	12	3	2	3	17	16
	Pigs	147	20	16	22	44	15	25	203	192
	Calves	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Inflammatory conditions	Bovine	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
	Sheep	1	6	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Calves	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Pigs	4	291	135	20	16	6	12	44	44
Bacterial diseases (not T.B.)	Heifers	3	2	3	4	2	4	2	2	2
	Pigs	7	8	8	8	8	16	8	8	8
Parasitic diseases	Bovine	—	1	—	70	—	—	—	1	—
	Sheep	—	19	—	20	—	—	—	—	—
	Pigs	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Abnormal Pathological conditions	Bovine	2	1	—	33	—	3	—	—	—
	Sheep	1	5	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
	Pigs	4	7	4	18	3	14	3	3	3
	Calves	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Actinomycosis	Heifers	3	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
	Total	196	386	176	221	82	70	60	284	271

**Tinned Goods, Fish, Poultry, etc., condemned as Unfit for Human Food.**

TABLE No. 10.

	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
MEATS.			
Bacon ... ..		1	5
MISCELLANEOUS TINNED FOODS.			
2 Tins, Eggs ... ..		3	4
272 Tins, Milk ... ..	2	1	20
POULTRY and GAME.			
157 Fowls, 3 Turkeys, 9 Ducks, 2 Pheasants	4	—	15
RABBITS.			
77 Carcases ... ..	1	1	8
EGGS. 1068... ..	1	1	7
FISH.			
Cod Fillets, Salmon, Haddocks, Megrimms, Kippers, Prawns, Rock Salmon, Dabs ...	1	—	15
Total ...	11	1	18

**Report on the Administration of Factory and Workshops' Acts,  
1901, 1917 and 1937, in connection with Factories, Workplaces  
and Home Work.**

TABLE No. 11.

**1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.**

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written and Verbal notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ... ..	205	28	Nil
Workplaces (Other than Out- workers premises) ... ..	45	Nil	Nil
Total ...	250	28	Nil

## 2. Defects found in Factories and Workplaces.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect to which Prosecutions were insti- tuted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :				
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	14	17	Nil	Nil
Want of Ventilation ... ..	4	4	Nil	Nil
Overcrowding ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Want of Drainage of Floors ...	1	—	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Accommodation {	Insufficient ...	3	Nil	Nil
	Unsuitable or defective ...	4	Nil	Nil
	Not separate for sexes ...	1	Nil	Nil
Offences under the Factory and Workshops' Acts :				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s. 101) ... ..			Nil	Nil
Other offences : (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921) ... ..	8	9	Nil	Nil
	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	40	38	Nil	Nil

## 3. Home Work.

## Lists received from Employers.

Nature of Work	Once in the Year		Twice in the Year	
	Lists	Out workers	Lists	Out workers
Wearing Apparel (making) ...	4	31	1	4
Notified from other Authorities ...	1	1	—	—

Number of Outworkers on Register ... .. 50

Outworkers' Premises inspected during 1938 ... 36

## 4. Registered Factories.

								Number
Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Tailors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Bootmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Milliners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Builders, Woodworkers, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Metal Workers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Motor and Cycle Engineers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Total								191

## 5. Other Matters.

Class							Number
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory Act 1937 (s. 114)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Notified by H.M. Inspector of Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Certificates granted during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
In use at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	1



### THE SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Considerable progress is being made in regard to the administration of this Act. About 600 inspections have been made in Cheltenham since the Act came into operation, and last year 173 inspections were made. A summary is set out of the defects found and of the number remedied. Eight certificates of exemption under the section were issued after careful consideration by the Committee.

The enforcement of the provisions in the Act dealing with the supply of seats for shop assistants has now been transferred to the Public Health Committee.

Number of Inspections made ...	...	...	173
Number of Notices served ...	...	...	30
Number of Certificates of Exemption issued			8
Number of Notices complied with ...	...	...	17

	<i>Defects</i>	<i>Number Reported</i>	<i>No. of Defects Remedied</i>
<b>W.C.'s.</b>			
Insufficient accommodation...	...	7	2
Not separate for Sexes ...	...	5	3
Dirty and defective pans, etc.	...	6	2
Defective structure of apartments ...	...	2	1
Defective seats ...	...	3	1
Defective flush boxes ...	...	1	1
„ floors ...	...	1	—

#### Washing Facilities.

None ...	...	3	1
Untrapped and defective waste pipes	...	2	—
Defective sinks ...	...	3	—

#### General.

No proper means of Heating ...	...	9	9
Insufficient light and ventilation ...	...	3	—
Dirty and defective walls and ceilings	...	8	1
Defective floors ...	...	1	1
Defective roofs ...	...	2	1
		—	—
	Total	56	23
		—	—

### **RAG FLOCK ACTS, 1911 AND 1928.**

Samples of rag flock were taken from one firm, and one sample was found not to comply with the standard of cleanliness prescribed by the regulations. A warning was issued to the firm in question that they were liable to penalties, and instructions given to the Sanitary Inspector to take further samples. Samples of rag flock were again taken from the firm in question and these were found to comply with the prescribed standard.

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### **LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.**

It was not found necessary for the local authority to issue a summons against any person during 1938, at the instigation of the Public Health Committee.

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### **FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**

Preparations have been made for the carrying out of this Act, which comes into force in October, 1939, and will henceforth be administered by the Borough Council.

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### **RAT REPRESSION AND DESTRUCTION.**

Cheltenham actively participated in the National Rat Week which is organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. That the expense incurred is fully justified may be inferred from the excellent response received from the citizens of this town throughout the whole year. The assistance given to the public during the campaign is apt to be misinterpreted by some as relieving the individual of his responsibility, nevertheless, I am satisfied that the Council's action in employing skilled men as investigators working under the Sanitary Inspector has proved highly beneficial. There has not been a single case reported for some years where infestation was known to exist by reason of numbers in an area, but there are general complaints of migratory rats. Lengths of public sewers or culverts and defective private drains account for many cases, but again I must record, as an Executive Officer under the Act, the disregard by the farming community of the rat problem, with the

inevitable migration into the urban and built-up areas. The work of the County Rat Officer for Gloucestershire is undoubtedly having an effect, but the existing legislation leaves much to be desired, and not until there is concerted Government action will the rat population be reduced and our home food supplies be protected.

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### CIVIL DEFENCE.

Considerable time and attention has been given during the year to work incidental to defence measures. The principal work has been in regard to air raid precautions. My appointment as Superintendent of Decontamination from the inception of the Scheme has required the preparation of numerous plans, reports, etc., for the area which includes the Urban District of Charlton Kings and the Rural District of Cheltenham. The Home Office has approved of the plans and specification submitted for adapting disused stables at the Central Dépôt for conversion into a Cleansing Station and centre for the Decontamination Service at an estimated cost of £650.

The personnel for this service have been trained and have given several demonstrations.









